

FAIRY TAIL

53



Hiro Mashima

FAIRYTAIL

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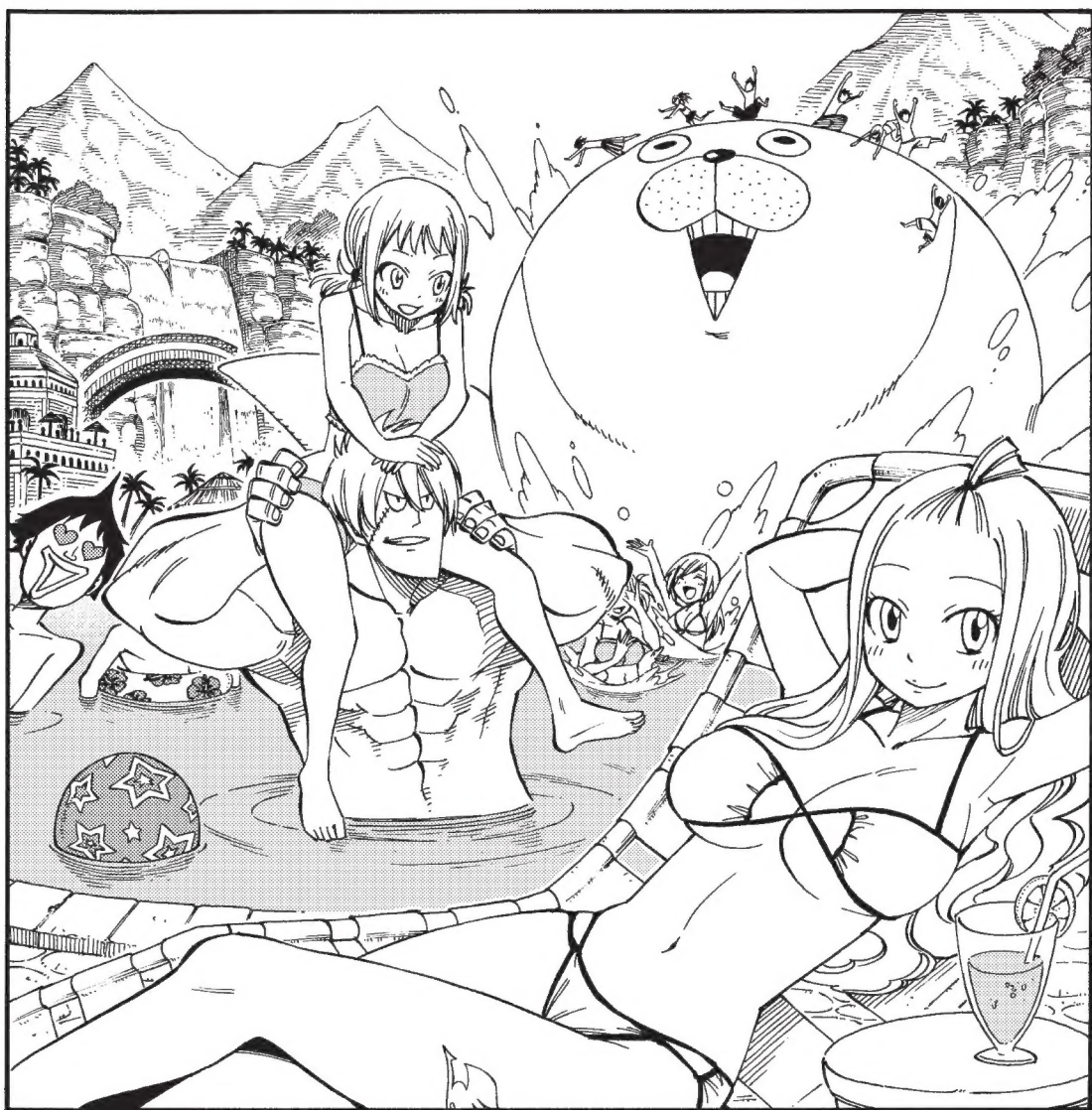
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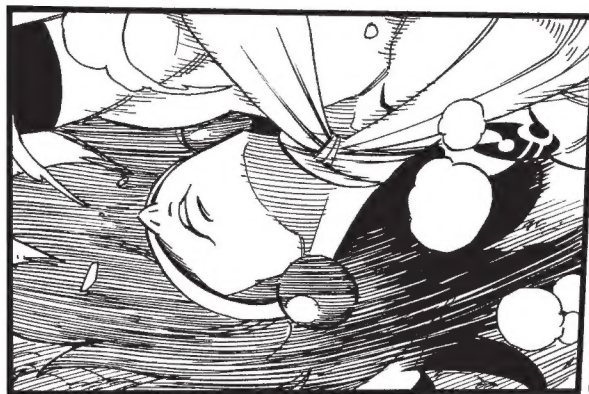
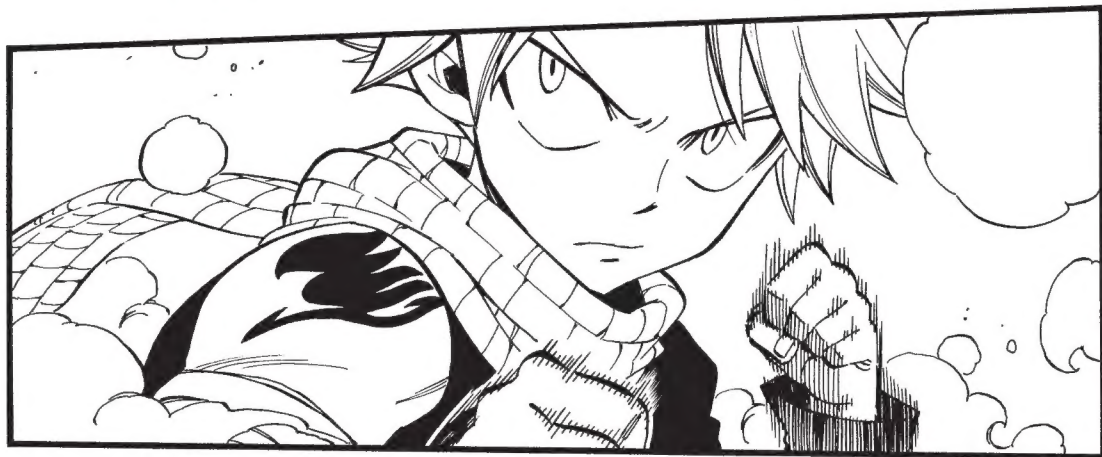
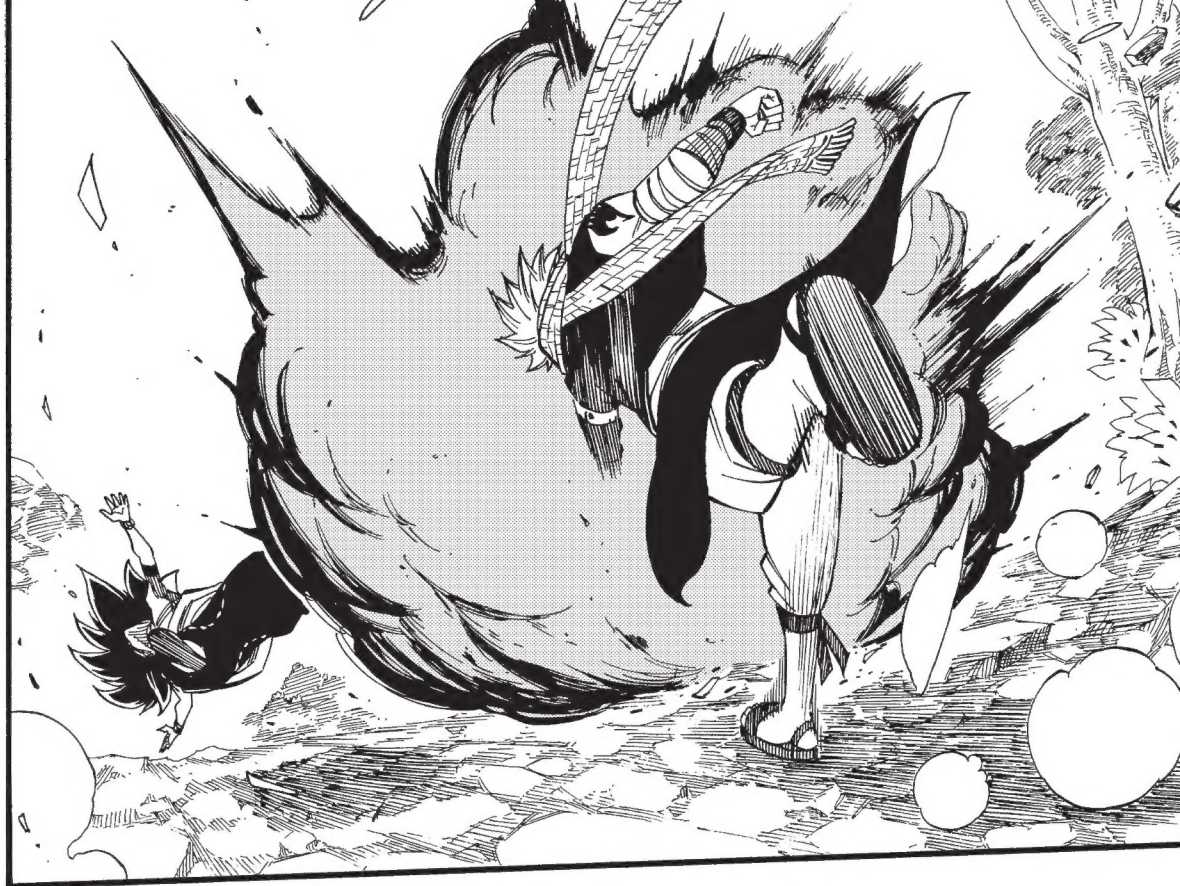
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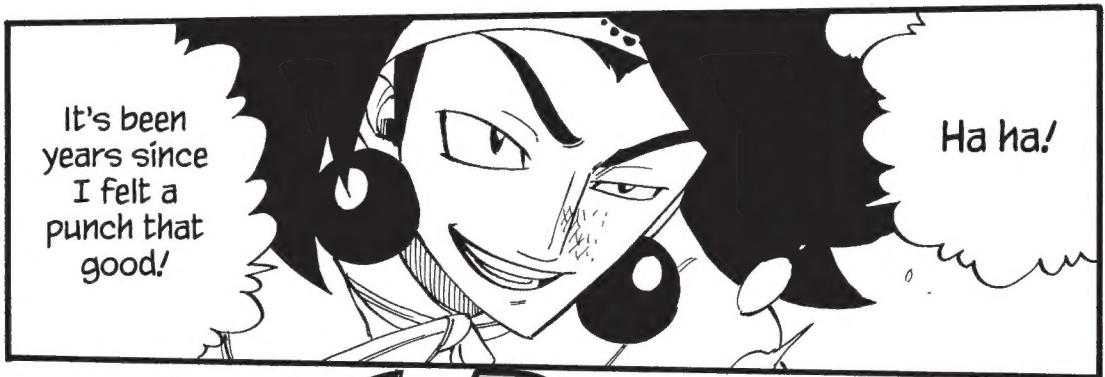
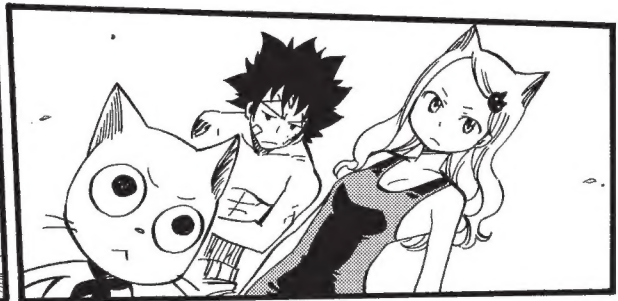
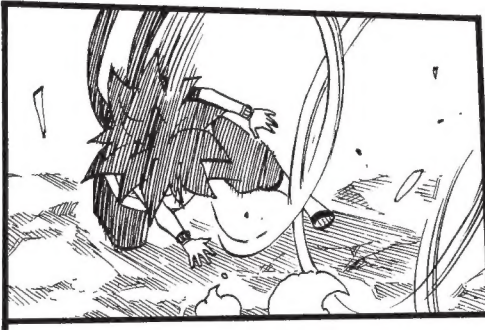
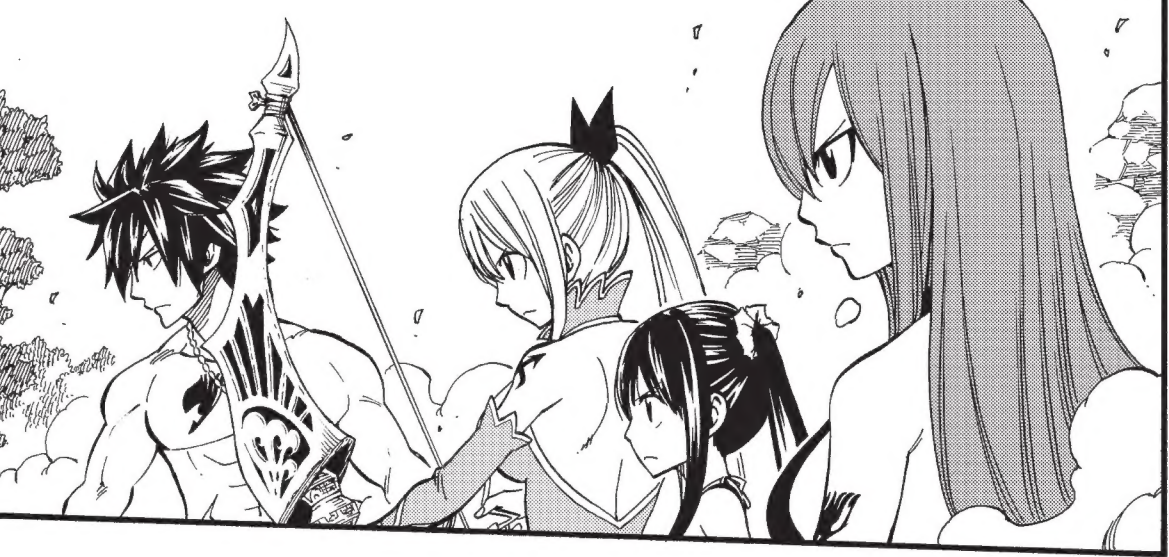
FAIRY TAIL

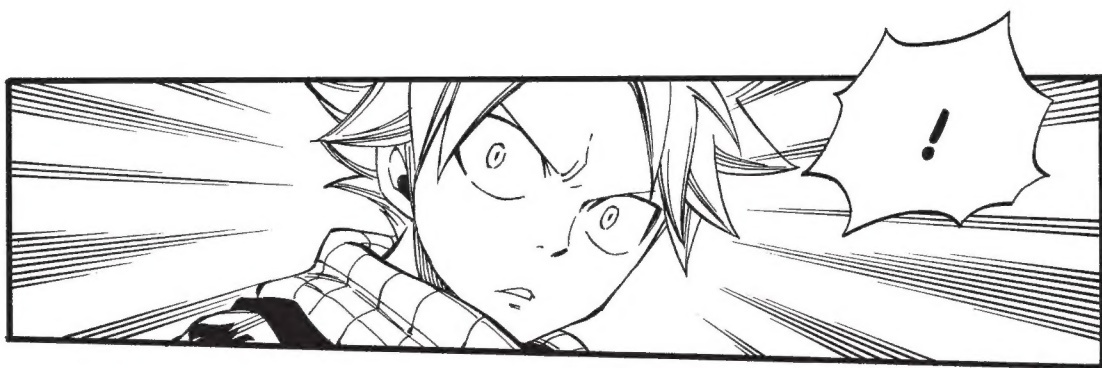
フェアリーテイル

Chapter 447: The Fight to Flee











Thirst!!



What?!



You little...



The sand... This is bad!

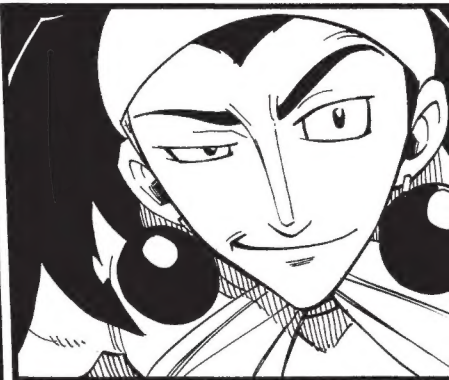
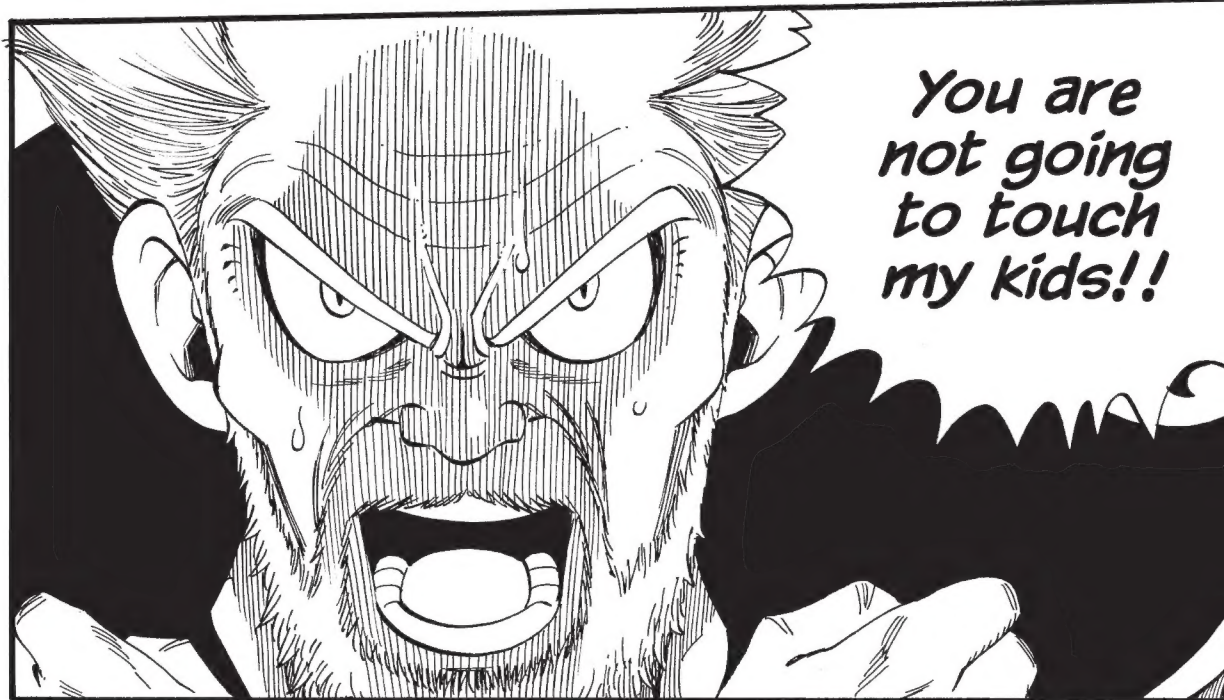


The sand's sticking to me...



Whoops!

DWOOSH





...the
power of
Spriggan
12!

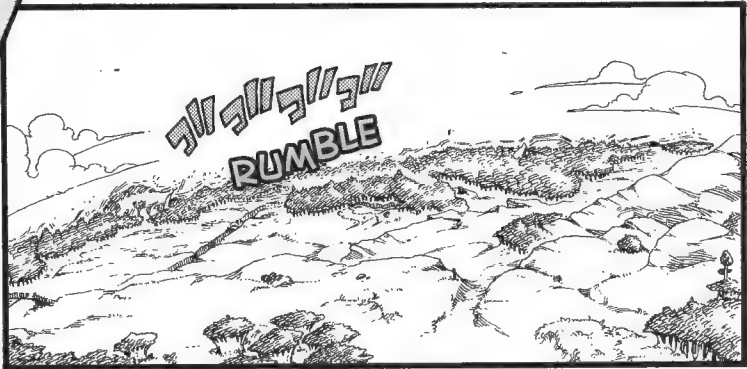
You
fail to
see...



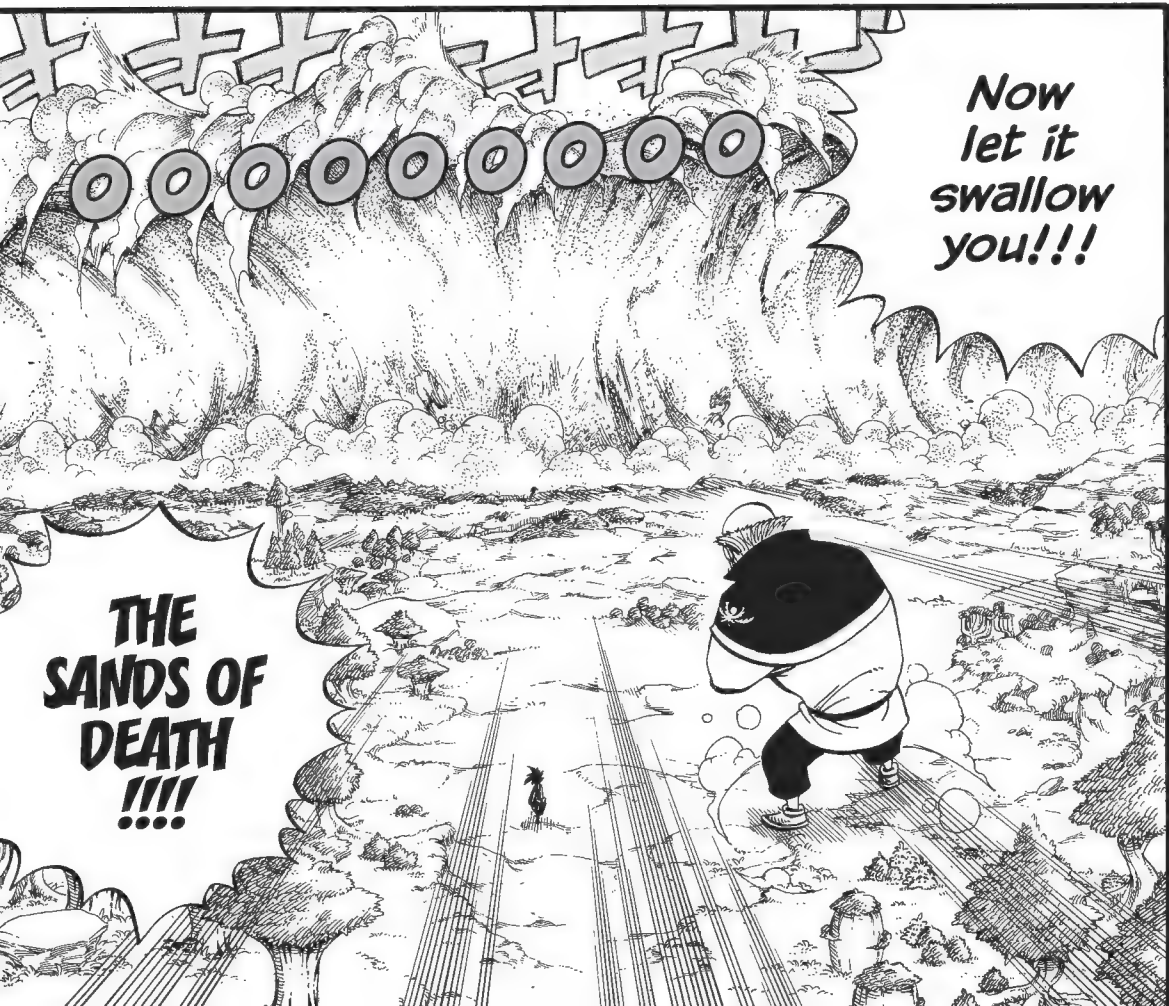
Really?
You think
you can
protect
them all?



RUMBLE



RUMBLE



Now
let it
swallow
you!!!

THE
SANDS OF
DEATH
!!!!





*I
prom-
ise.*



This
sandstorm
kills anything
it touches by
stealing its
moisture!

It's
over!!



Oo

Oo

Oo

Oo

Sir!

Master !!

Oh!

Run
away!

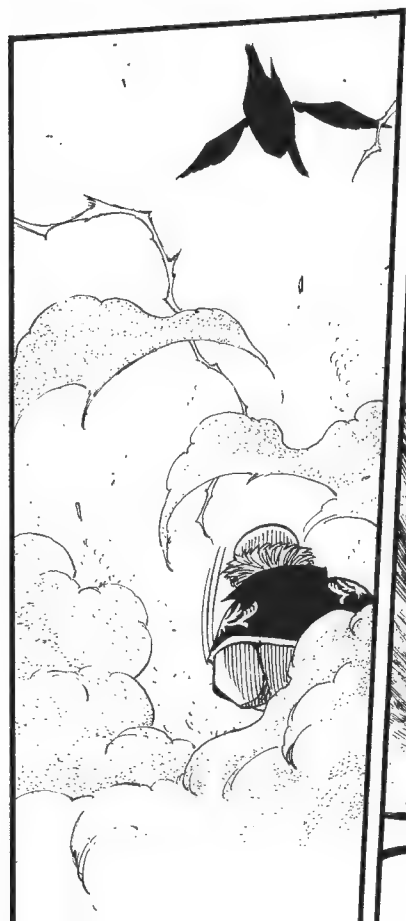
Old
man!

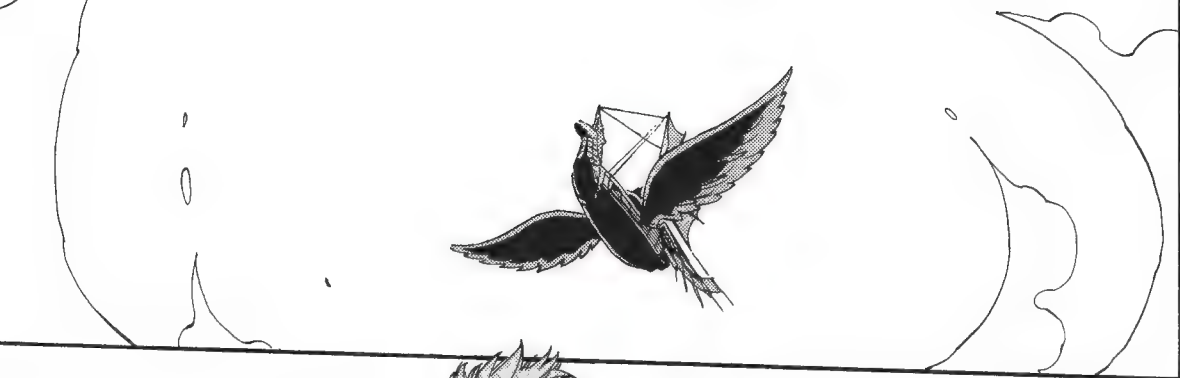


Here come
some fairy
mummies!

GWOUGH







He always
did overdo
things.

Eek!

He made
that enormous
sandstorm
vanish in a
single blow.

Lexus!

Cool!

Yer
lookin' old,
gramps.

Wait, that's
a ship! How
can Gajeel
and Lexus be
on it without
puking?!

Gajeel?
Levy and Lily
too?

Y-You
all realize
this is *my*
ship...

Everybody
come
aboard!

We're
pulling
out!

This is
enemy
territory.



This is a ship custom-built for dragon slayers.

You'd better not, Elf!

H-Hey, I wanna say something, too!

Gray-sama!! Juvia is here for you!!



Mest, you're there, right? Direct Line to the ship!



Um... Can't say I've changed at all...



Everyone's grown a bit after a year!

Thus the little girl grows up.

Huh? I think Wendy's gotten a little bigger!



You ain't running away!!

BWOOSH



Got it!!!



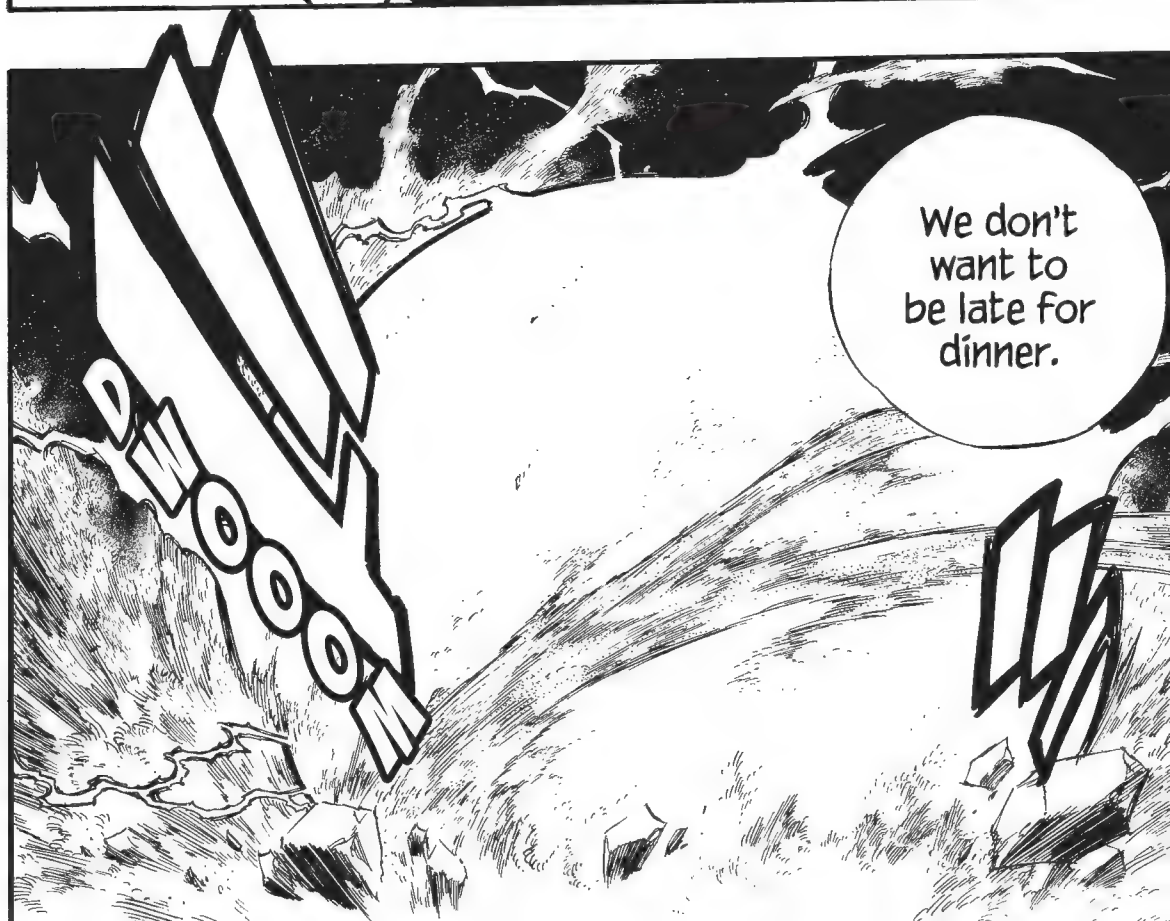
All we're
doing is
going
home.



Running?



!!



We don't
want to
be late for
dinner.



GRA

Whoa!

A

W

W

W



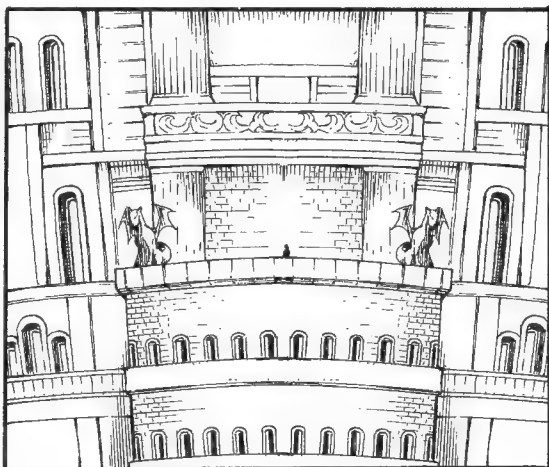
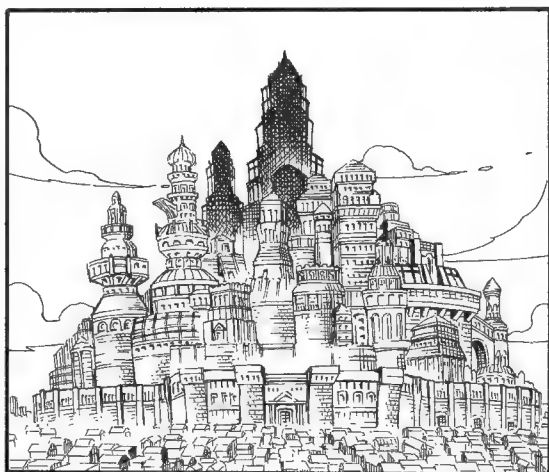


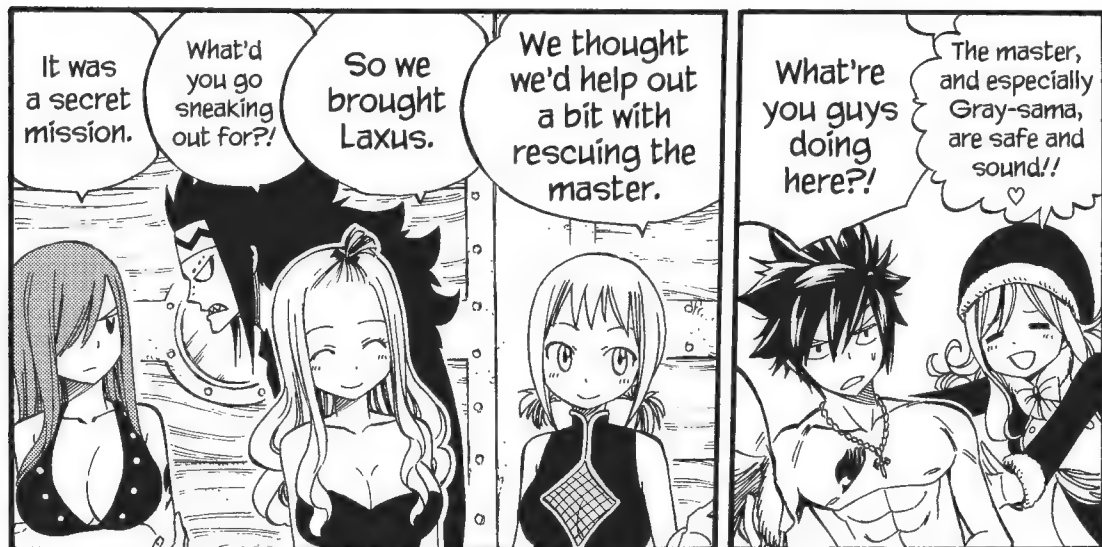
It has
begun,
Natsu...

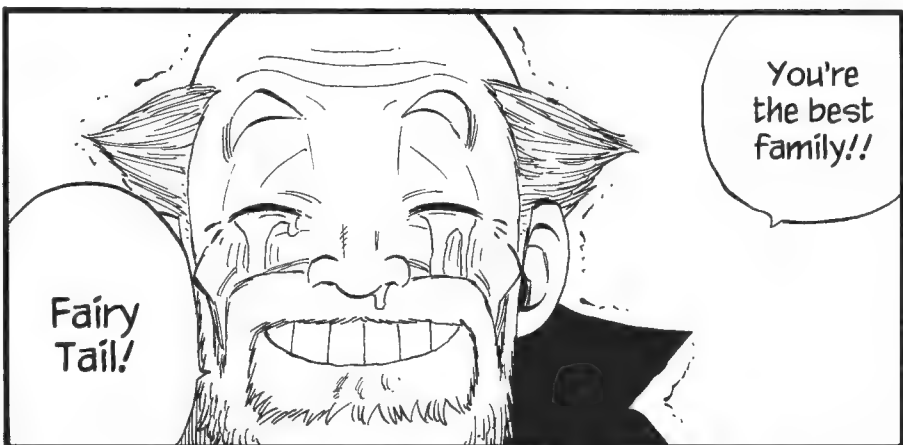


Yer
sayin' that
last attack
woulda done
me in?

I think
yer goin'
senile,
August.









 FAIRY TAIL

FAIRY TAIL

フェアリーテイル

Chapter 448: Fight the Power!





Now, in
celebration
of Fairy
Tail's official
return...

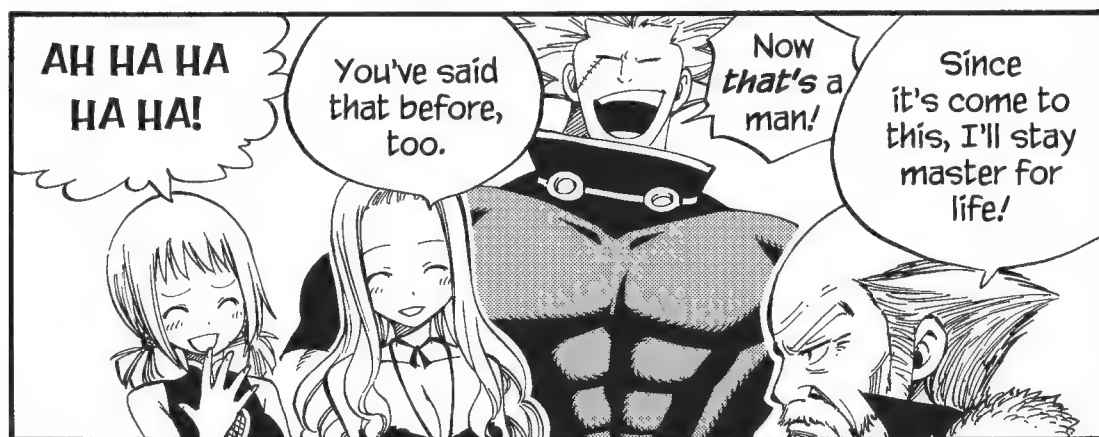


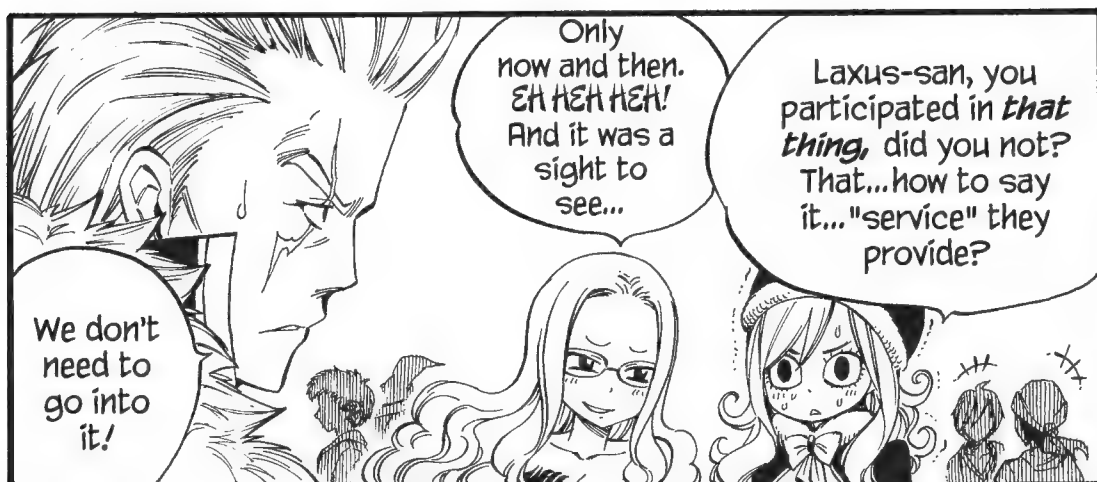
That
doesn't
sound
right...

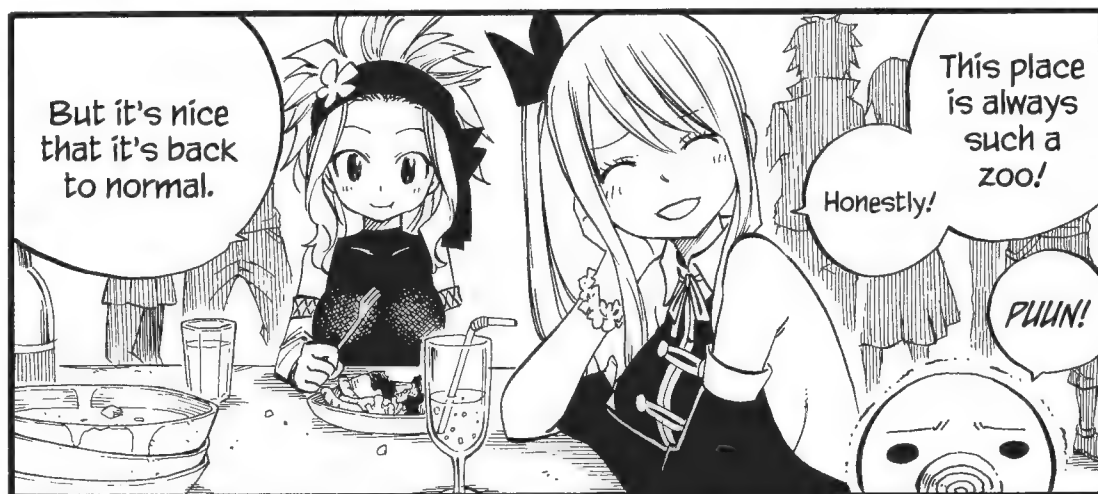
Makarov-
san!

Welcome
back,
Master!

Huh?
Erza's the
master now,
so...





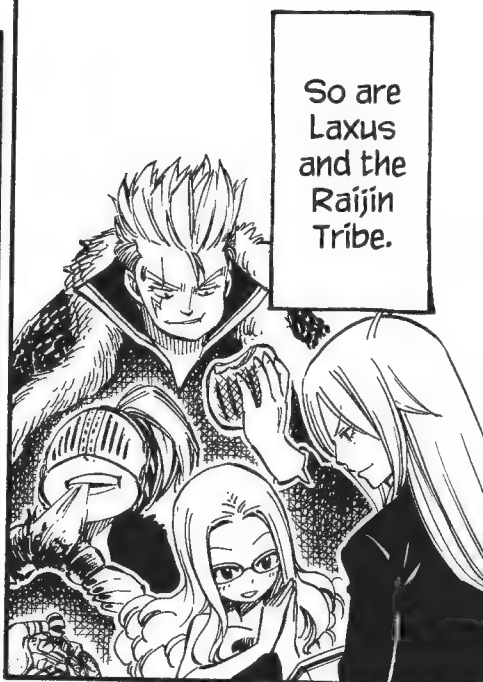




...there are
wizards whose
abilities go
beyond what
I thought
possible!



In the
Alvarez
Empire
on the
western
conti-
nent...



So are
Lexus
and the
Raijin
Tribe.



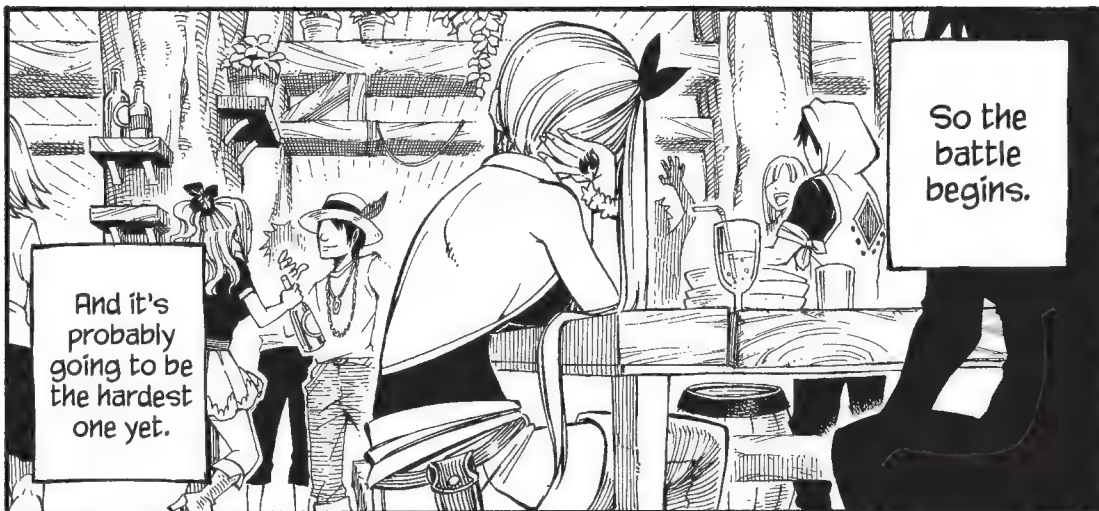
He's taken
on the name
Emperor
Spriggan,
and rules the
empire.

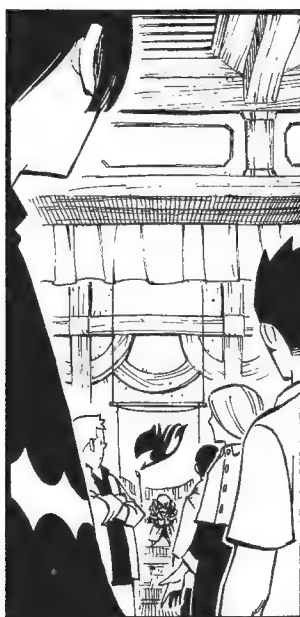
And the
Black
Wizard
Zeref.

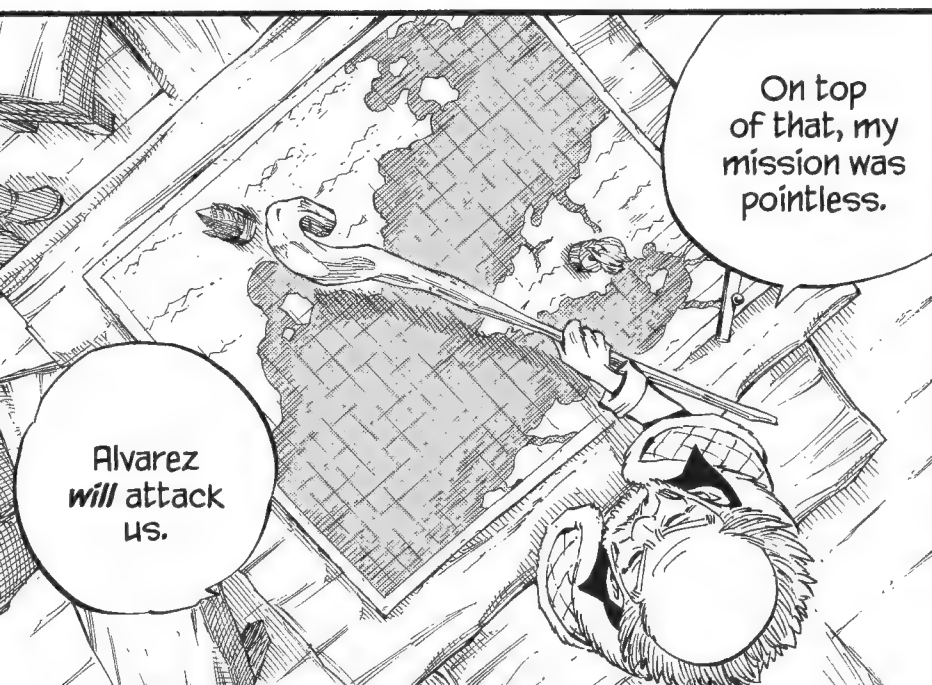


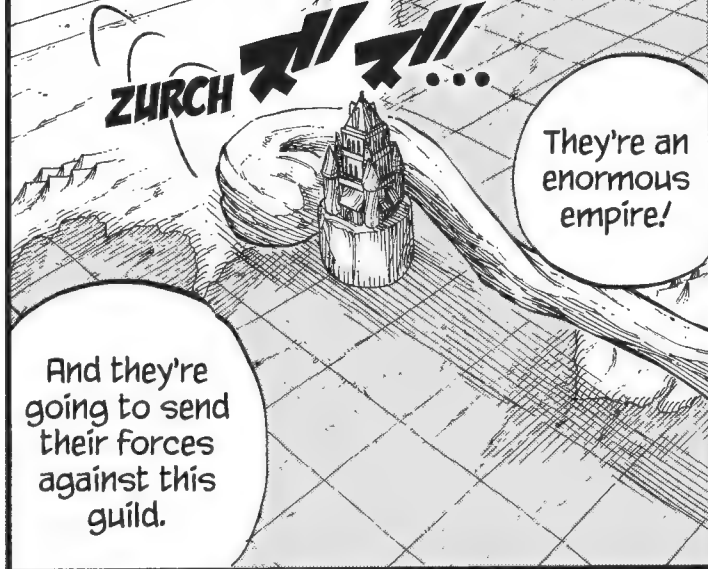
...the body
of the first
master.
It's hidden
beneath our
guild hall.

He wants
Lumen
Histoire...









ZURCH Z!! Z!!...

They're an enormous empire!

And they're going to send their forces against this guild.



Yeah?!
What about it?!

GRAAH



And the enemies have always been powerful!

Our determination to protect what's really important makes us strong!



How many times do you think we've fought for the guild so far?

STOMP

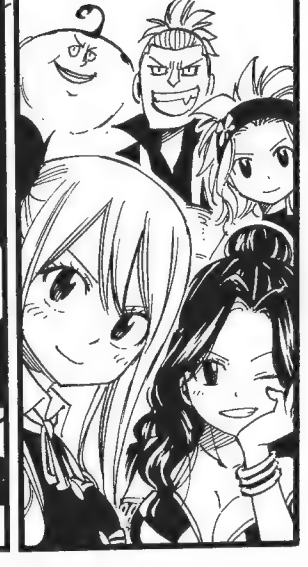
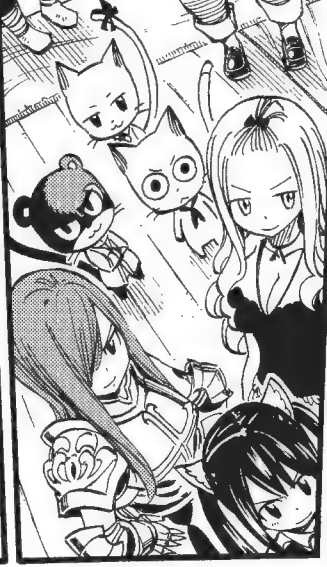
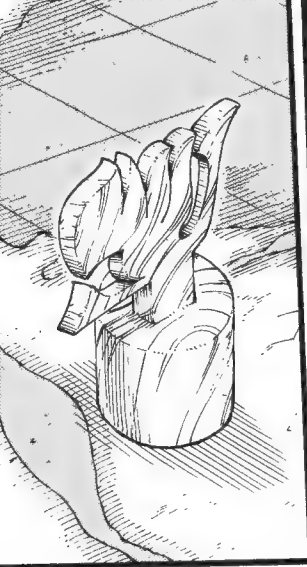
STOMP





**It ain't
about
winning!
We're
makin' a
stand to
keep on
living!**

**That's
what
we're
fightin'
for!!**

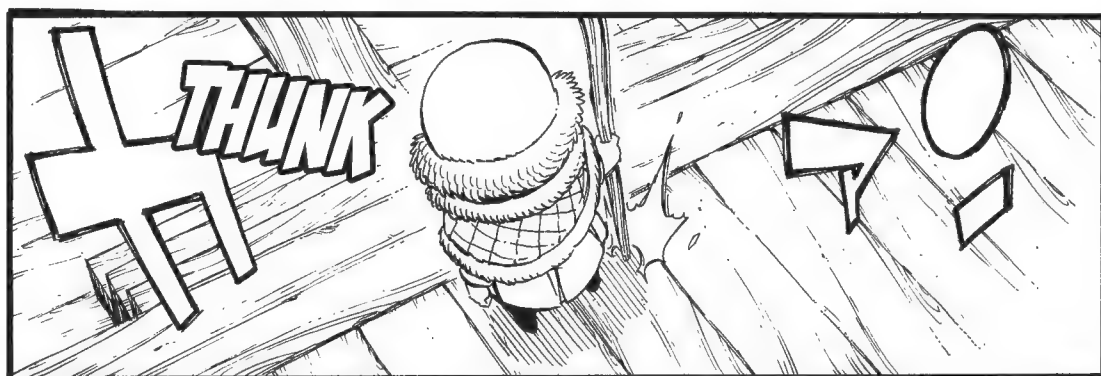




**They think
they can
threaten my
family?!
Well, we'll
make them
regret
it!!**

**It's
time for
some pay-
back!!**





**First
Master?!**



Everyone
...

Or
could it
be...?

Is this the
spirit of
the first
master...?

ざわ...
MURMUR



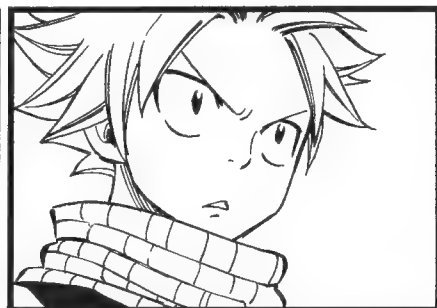


It is something that the rest of the world should never know of.

...Fairy Heart has been sequestered as our guild's most closely-guarded secret.



However, there are two things I feel you must know. Firstly, why Zeref wants it so badly.



No. It's for the best.

First Master ...

Wrong-doing?

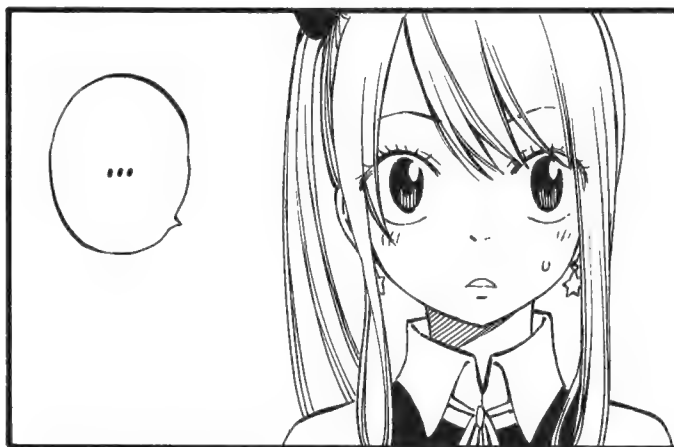
And secondly, of my wrong-doing.

The time has come to tell everything.





This is the
story of a
cursed boy
and a cursed
girl.



...

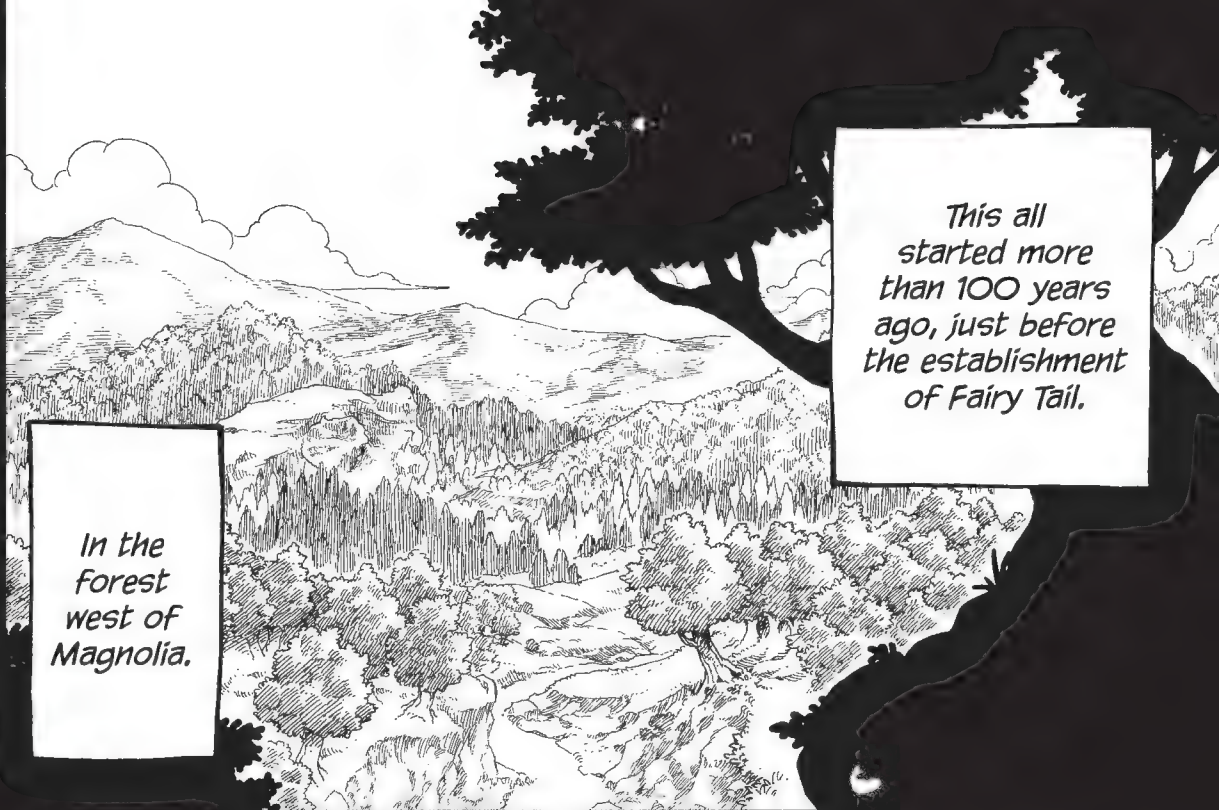
And a tale of
the singular
magic they
sought.

FAIRY TAIL

フェアリーテイル



Chapter 449: Mavis and Zeref



*In the
forest
west of
Magnolia.*


*This all
started more
than 100 years
ago, just before
the establishment
of Fairy Tail.*



*I
happened
...*




*...to
come
across a
boy.*



...a curse in which he steals the life from the people around him, even against his own will.

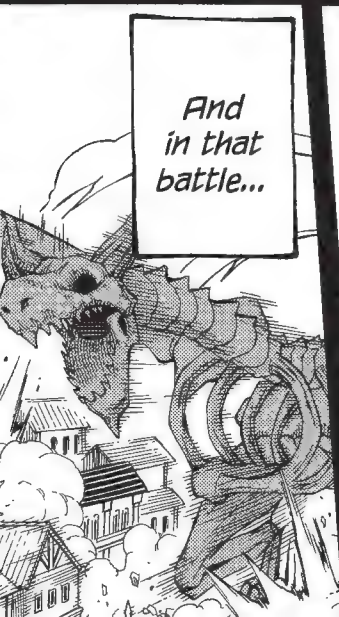
He was suffering under the curse of Ankh-selam...




And he taught me a whole lot of magic!



But something about him drew me to him.



And in that battle...



So we had to learn magic that would free the town from their tyranny.

Now, at the time, Magnolia was under the thumb of a dark guild.



*...we won
because I
used some
black magic
that wasn't
fully complete.*



*Still...at
the time,
I thought
nothing
of it.*

*The price
was that
my body
would never
mature.*

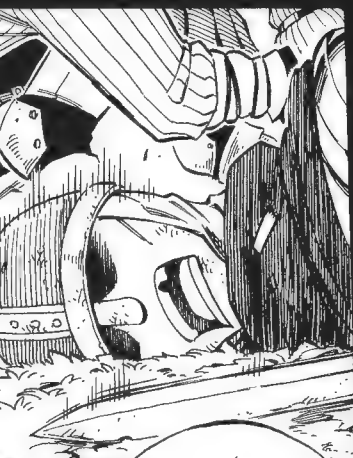


*In April
of the year
X686,
Fairy
Tail was
founded!*

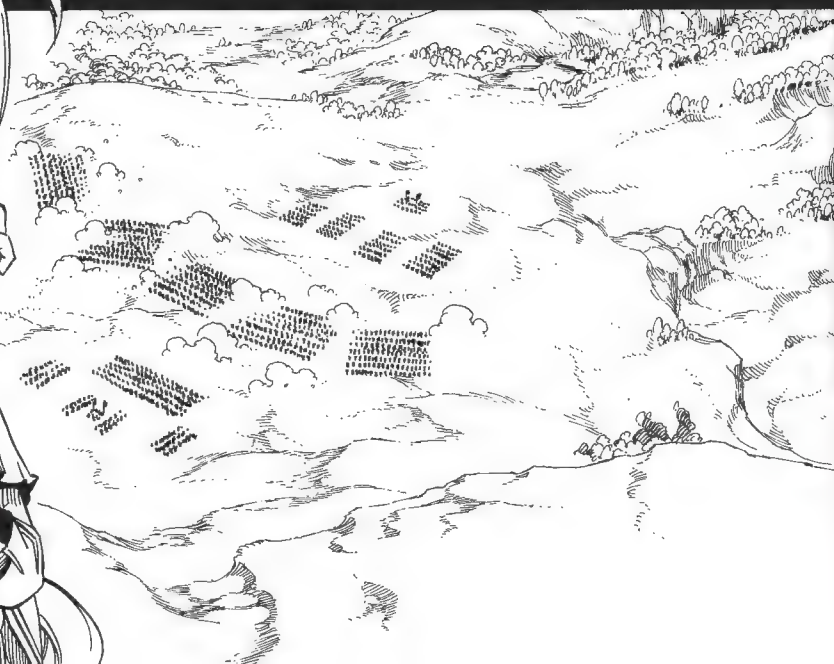


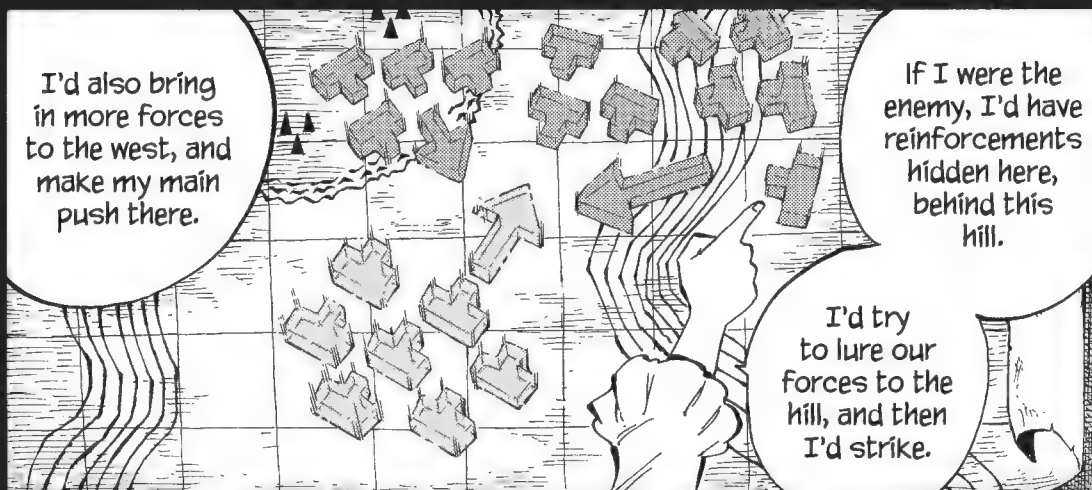
*That
year was
the start of
the Second
Caravan
Trade War.*

*Back then,
feudal lords
were fighting
brutal battles
over the
rights to
control trade
routes.*



*Eventually, the
wizard guilds
signed up as
mercenaries,
and now
wizards were
caught up in
the war, too.*





But her analysis skills are really something!

What "princess" is at home on a battlefield?

Here she goes again!
Our little princess...

Warrod Sequen

(Later became the fourth most powerful of the Ten Wizard Saints.)

Precht Gaebolg

(Later became the second master of Fairy Tail, and much later, master of Grimoire Heart.)

Yuri Dreyar
(Later, Makarov's father.)

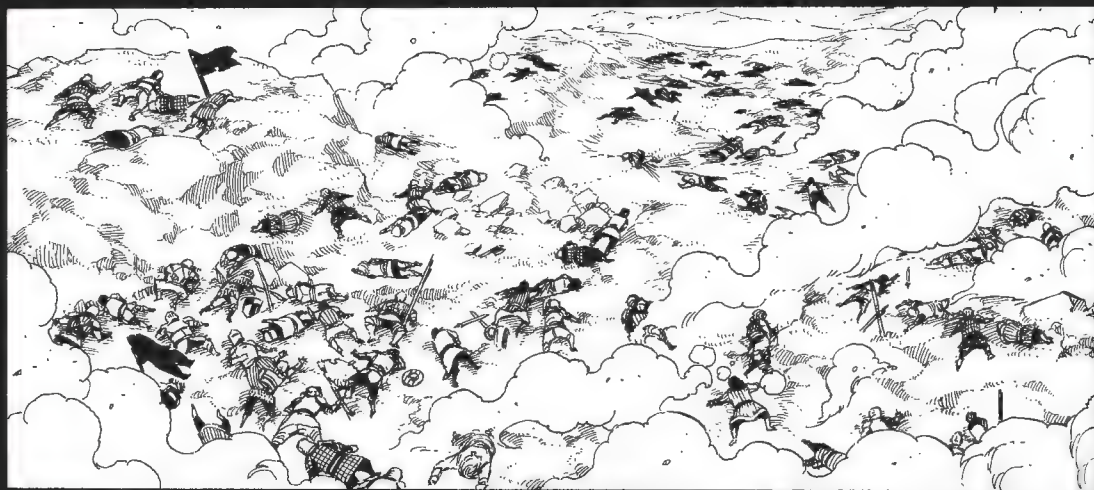
Your job will be to stop the enemy's wizards. I'd say there's an 85 percent chance of reinforcements coming in from the west. So be careful out there!

So?
When will the Wizard Division see some action?

Okay, ya jerks!
Ready to roll?!

Hm!

Right!
Now we get to have some fun!!



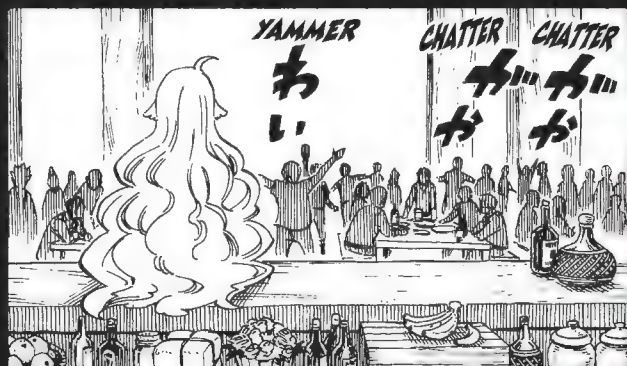


Cheers!!!

Go bring
every bottle
of wine we've
got!!

And look
at how much
money we
made!!

We
won!!!

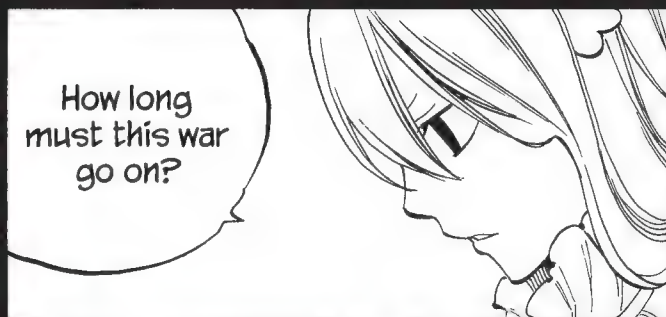


I was just
wondering
how many
lives were
lost on the
battlefield
today.

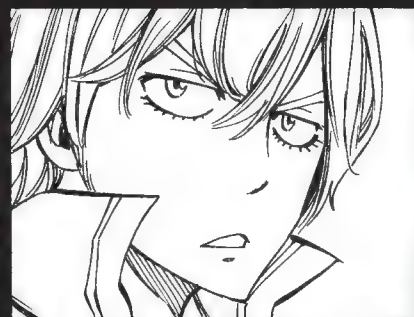


What's
the matter,
Mavis?

...



How long
must this war
go on?



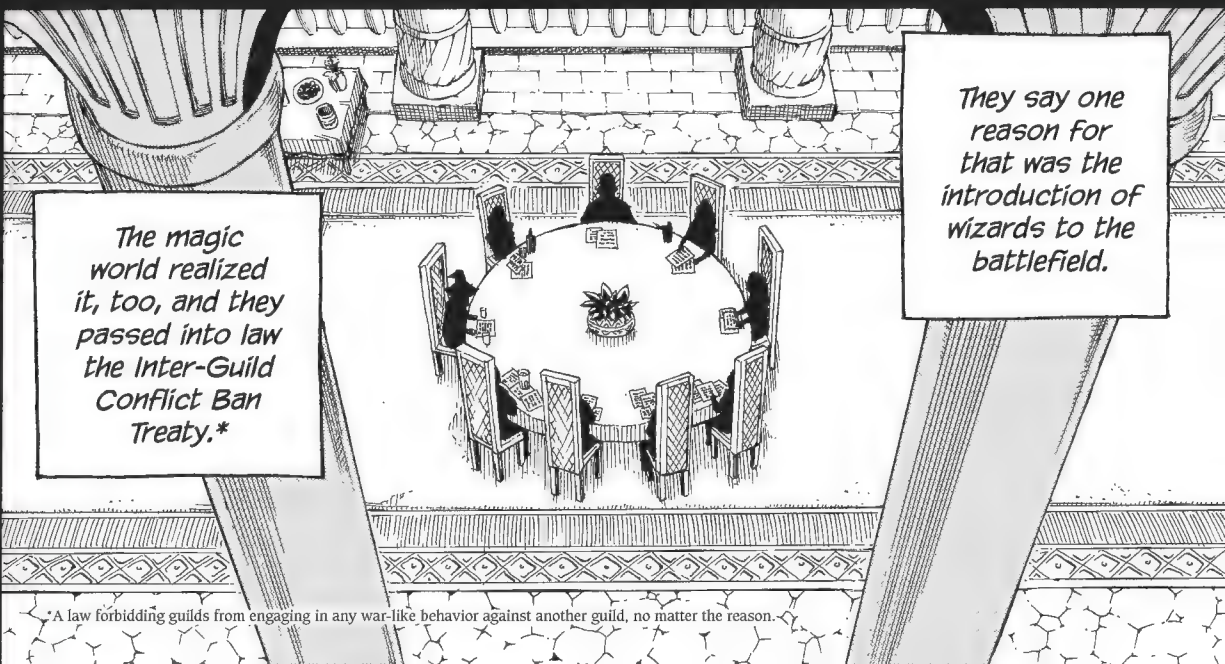


I want to
go back to
adventuring!



And not a
moment too soon.
The casualty rate
was already dozens
of times higher
than the First
war's.

In X690,
the
Second
Caravan
Trade War
came to
an end.



The magic
world realized
it, too, and they
passed into law
the Inter-Guild
Conflict Ban
Treaty.*

They say one
reason for
that was the
introduction of
wizards to the
battlefield.

*A law forbidding guilds from engaging in any war-like behavior against another guild, no matter the reason.



Six years
later, in
the year
X696...



And for a
time, that
brought a
period of
relative peace
to the magical
world.



...I came
across
that same
young man
again.



It's you!
The black
wizard from
so long
ago!



Mavis...?



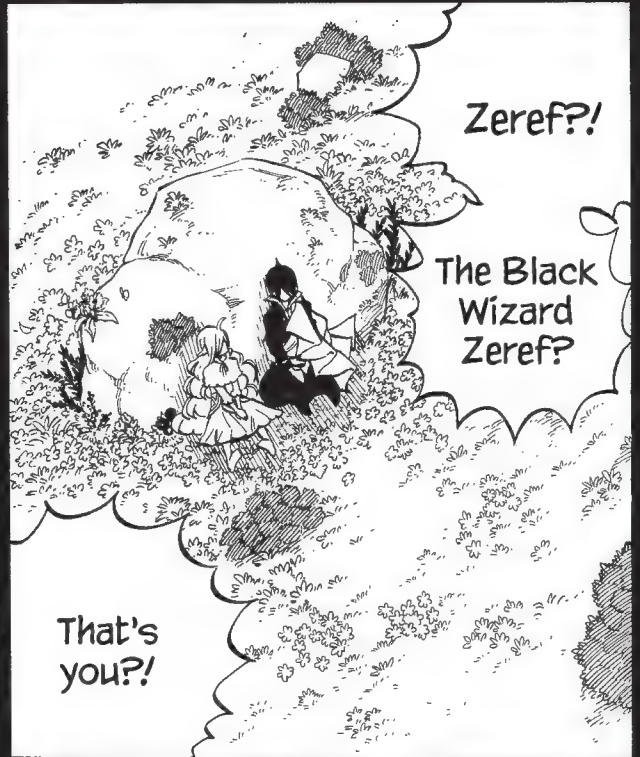


That's why I
didn't want
to mention
my name.



Yeah... Well... I
guess it's been
about that long.

But people
say Zeref is
300 years
old...



Zeref?!

The Black
Wizard
Zeref?

That's
you?!



Bad
rumors?

Actually,
those are
probably
true.

That
can't be
true!

You're
nothing like
the rumors
say!



So I don't believe a single word of those rumors!

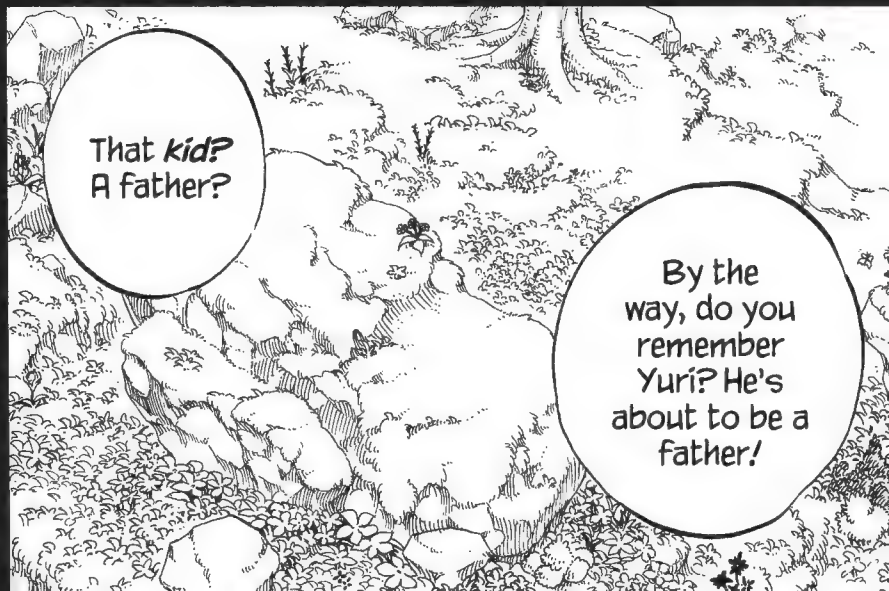
You've got such kind eyes!



Well, it *has* been ten years, you know.

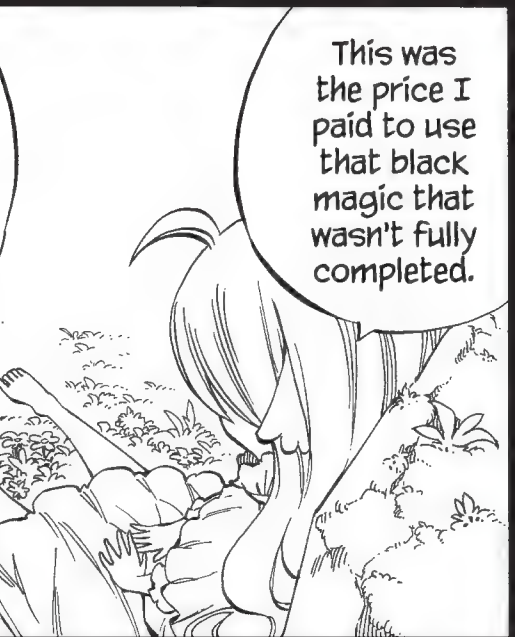


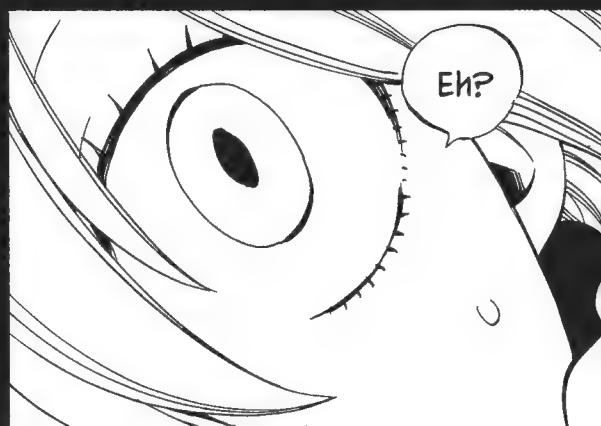
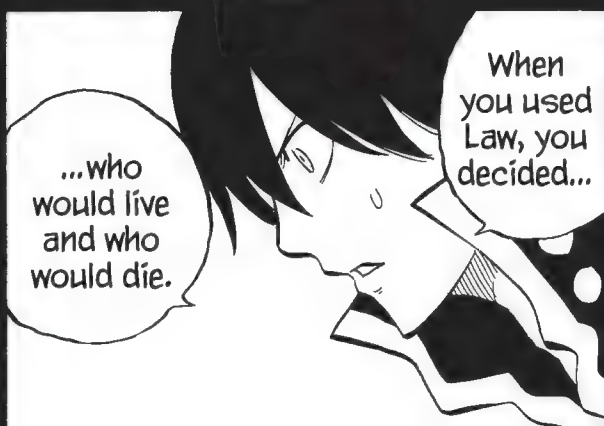
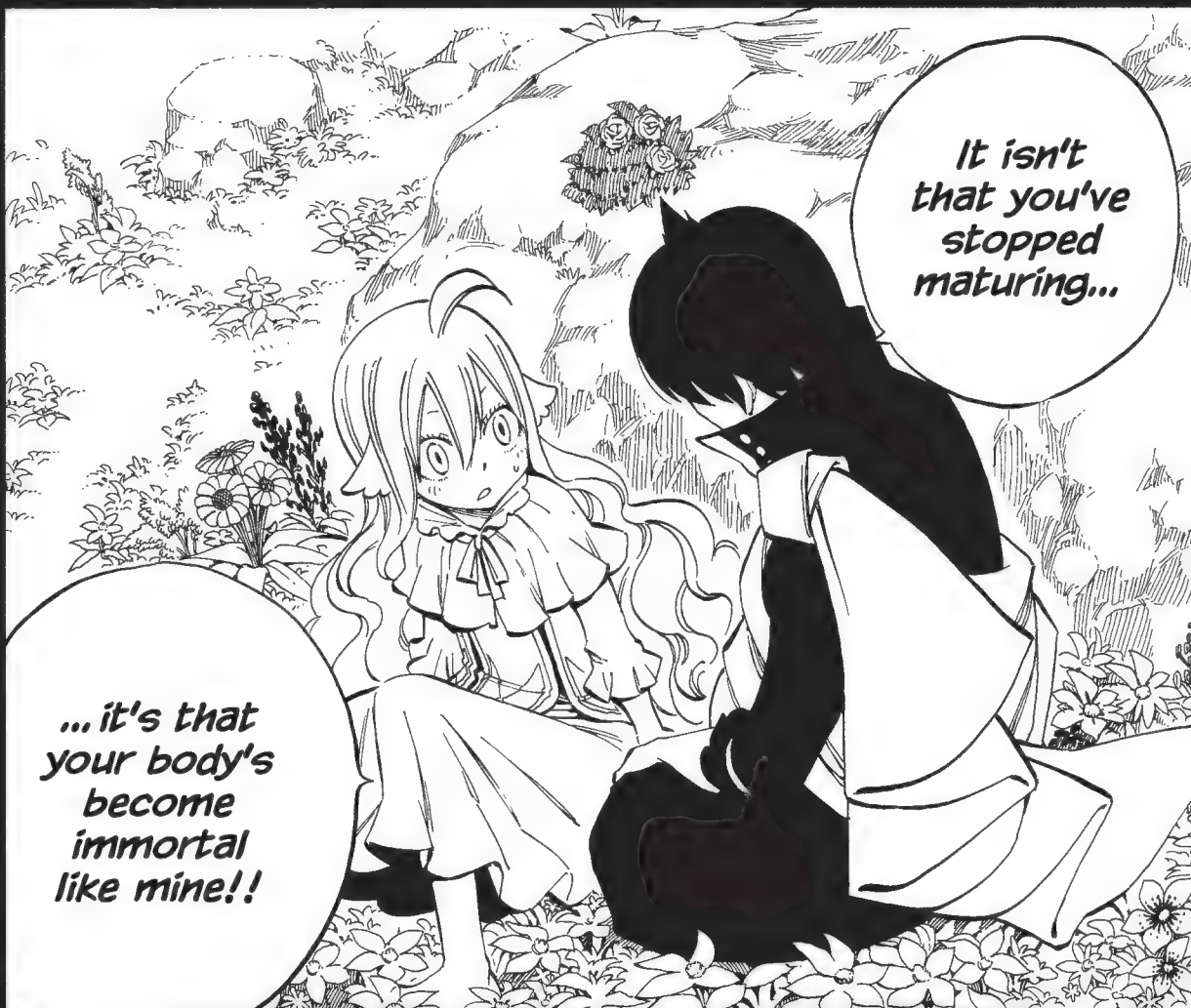
You're a little *too* open-hearted.



That *kid*?
A father?

By the way, do you remember Yuri? He's about to be a father!







...aren't dying...

Th-The people... around me...



It's Ankhselam's curse!

The more you d the lives hers dear, more you eal their lives...

It must be a mis-take!



War dulls people's respect for life.

It may have diminished the value you place on others' lives...

That may be true at present.

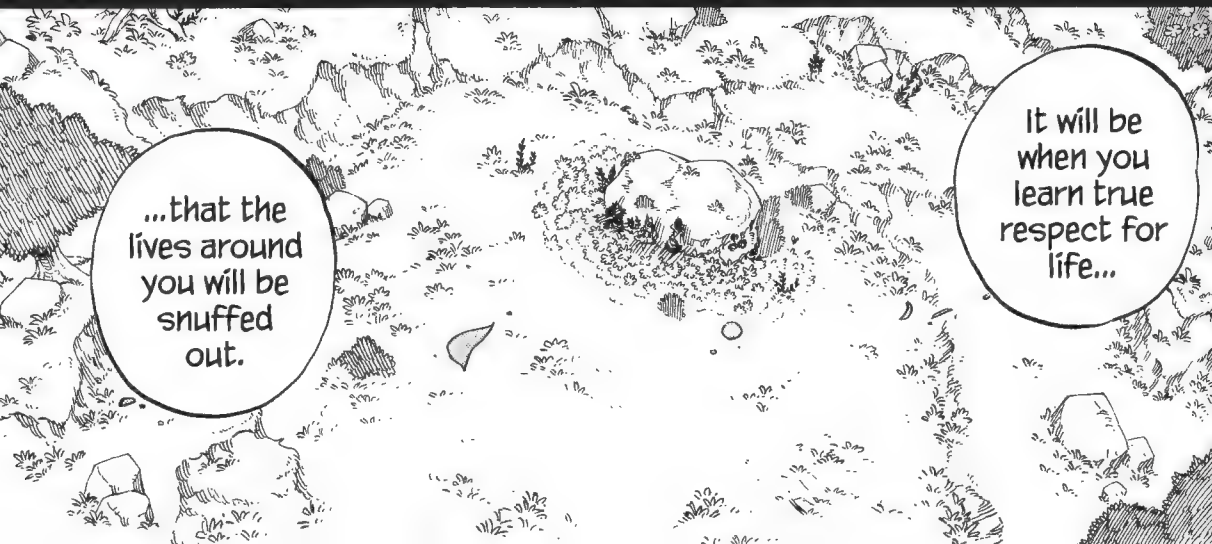
I see... You were in a war not too long ago, huh?



You don't know how precious life really is.



No! I... I still...



...that the lives around you will be snuffed out.

It will be when you learn true respect for life...



Because
it's the
truth.



Why...do you
have to say
such cruel
things...?



Maybe
now you
understand
the rumors
about me?



You... I
thought
you...

I was
right
about
her.




She *does* possess the correct qualities to walk by my side.

I don't believe it!



*I
can't
believe
it!!*



*You don't
know how
precious
life really
is.*



**LIFE IS
IMPORTANT
TO ME! IT'S
PRECIOUS!
I KNOW ITS
WORTH!**

*The
lives of the
friends I
love are
precious to
me...*

**Yes, I
do!!!!**

**I know
it!!!!**

Ooh!!

**WAAAH
WAAAH
WAAAH
WAAAH
WAAAH**

**Yuri,
you're
a dad!!!!**

FAIRY TAIL

フェアリーテイル



Chapter 450: The Only One in All the World



X696, the
birth of
Yuri's son,
Makarov.



It's a
boy...?

Ooh!!

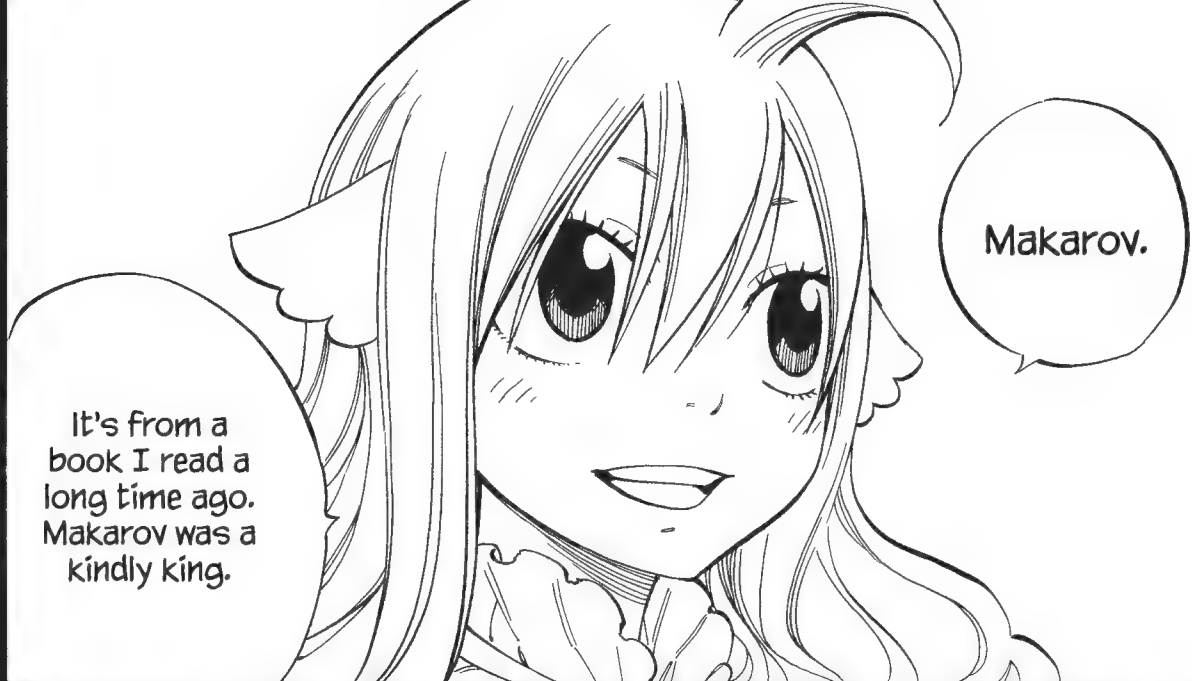


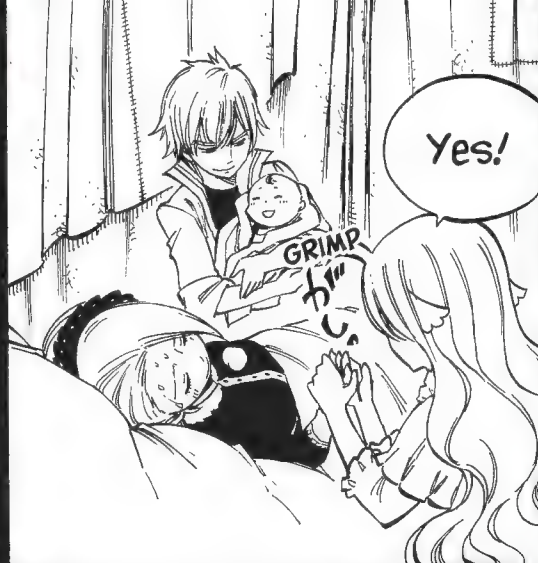
He's so
cute!



You did
wonderfully,
Rita.



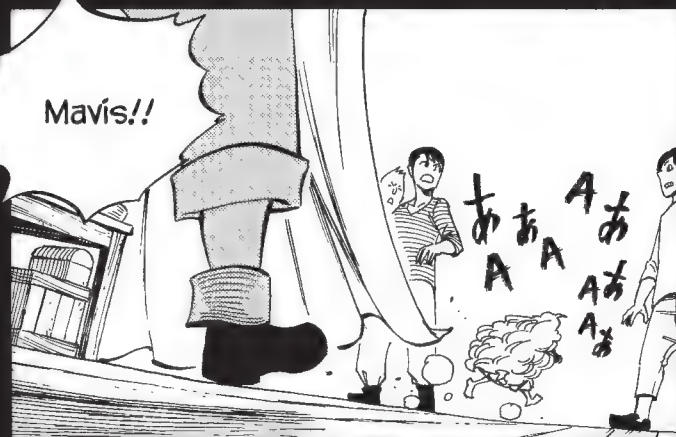
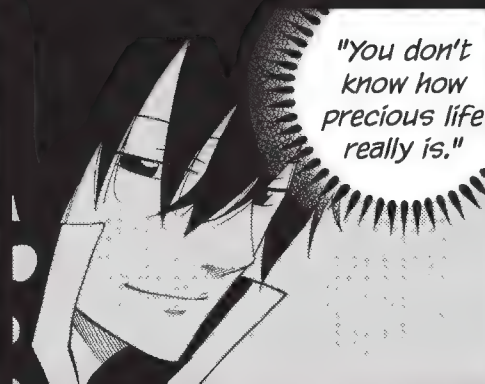


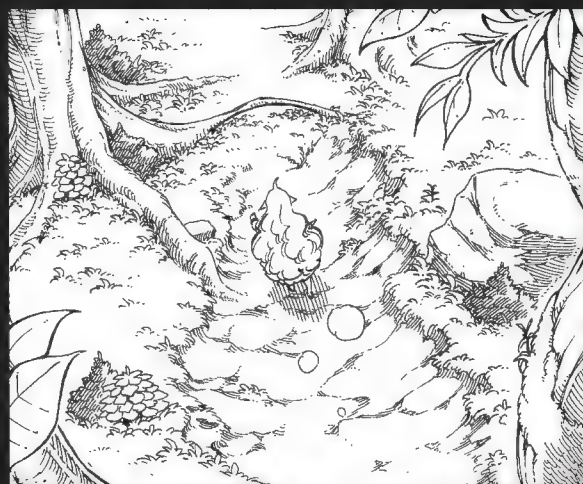


**Rita!
Ritaaaaa!!**

The delivery
took too
much out
of her!

Rita!!
Hey, what's
wrong?!







If you
love no
one, no
lives
will be
taken.



It's a
curse of
contradiction.
The more you
love, the
more lives
you steal.



*...and
even
humans.*




*...and
strips
the life
from
animals
...*



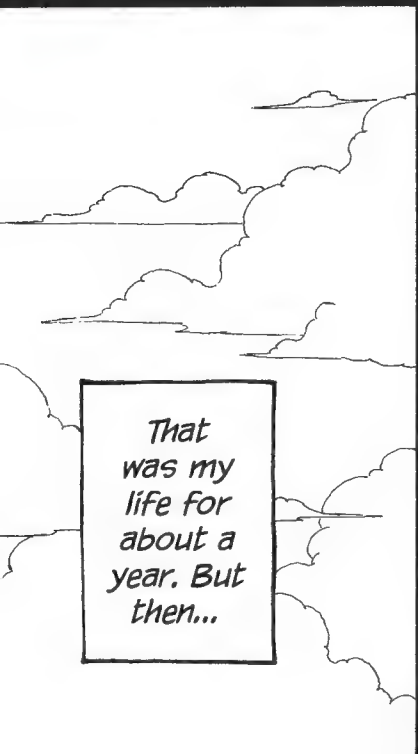
*It
dries
up
trees...*




*I just
wandered,
direction-
less.*



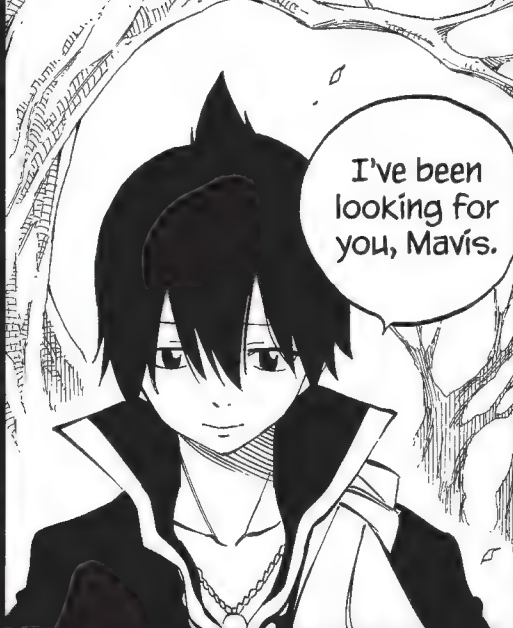
*After that
day, I never
returned to
the guild.*

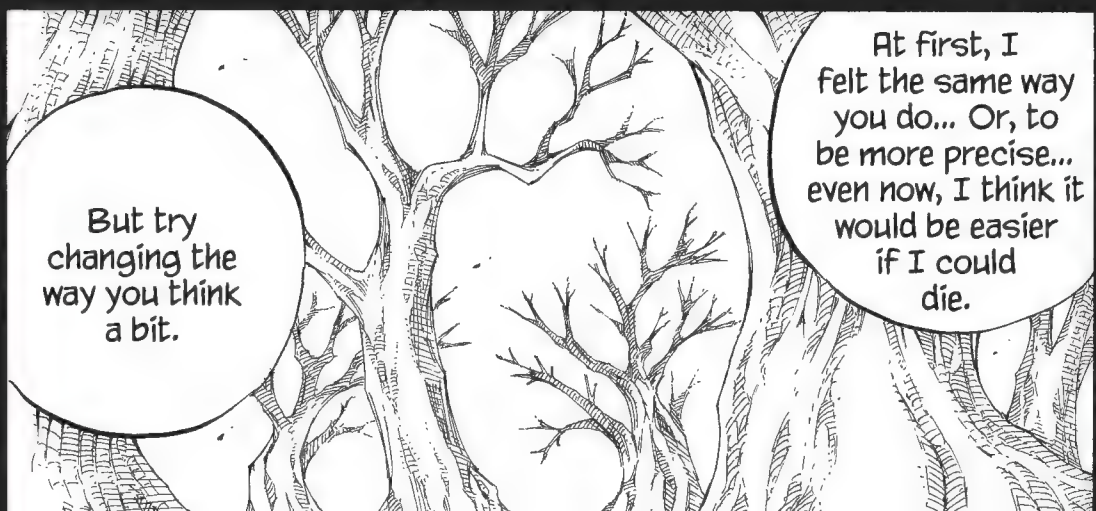
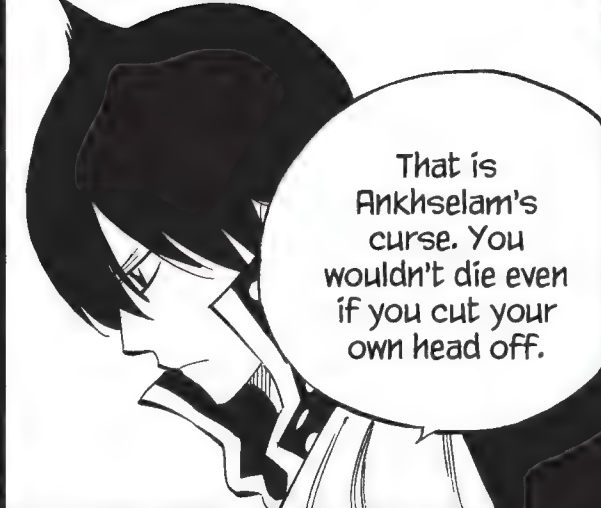


*That
was my
life for
about a
year. But
then...*



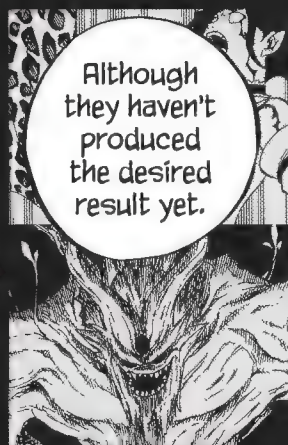
*I can't
tell you
how
many
lives I
stole.*







You and I
have all the
time in the
world.

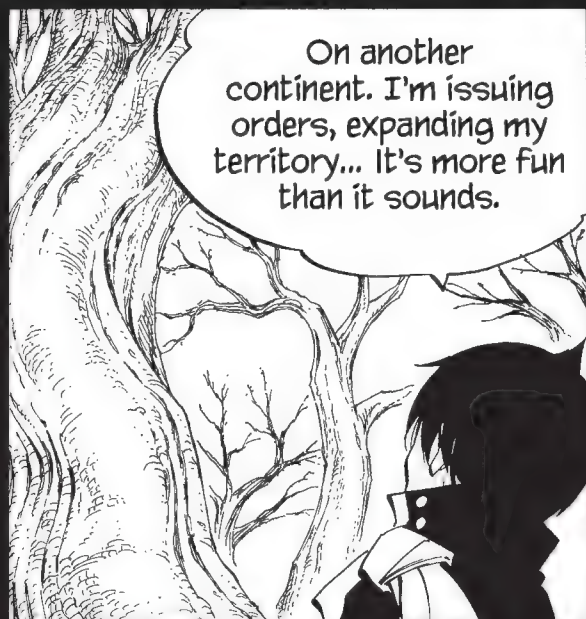


Although
they haven't
produced
the desired
result yet.



I used
some of mine
to create
demons called
Etherious.

Yes...
inhuman
beings, who
might have
the power to
kill me.




On another
continent. I'm issuing
orders, expanding my
territory... It's more fun
than it sounds.



A
country?




Presently,
I am
building a
country.



So
Ankhselam's
curse has no
effect. This is
just a simulation.
A game.


There, I am the
emperor, and the
people are units.
Yes. Just pieces on
a game board.



I'm
preparing
for battle...
maybe?



What
for?

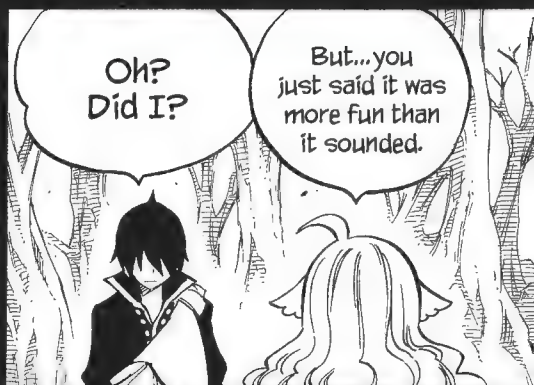


Even this
expansion of my
country's territory
is not in any way
enjoyable.

Don't
misunderstand
me. I take no
pleasure in war.
On the contrary,
I hate it.



Are there contradictions even in his thoughts?



Oh? Did I?

But...you just said it was more fun than it sounded.

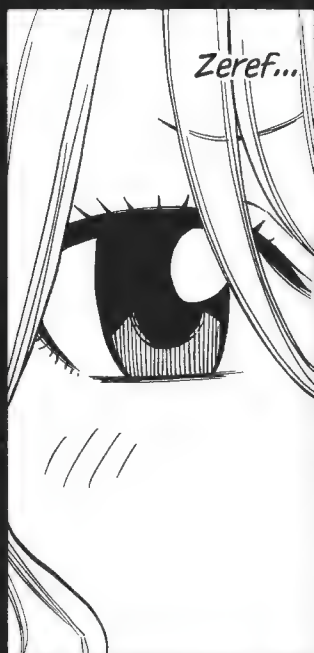


I want to see my brother...

That's my purpose in life.

No... I want him crushed!

I'm living so I can die.



Zeref...



No, I want him to crush me...

Huh? My head kind of... hurts...



The world...
keeps...
rejecting
me...

The
world...



I'm the only one
who can understand
how you feel!



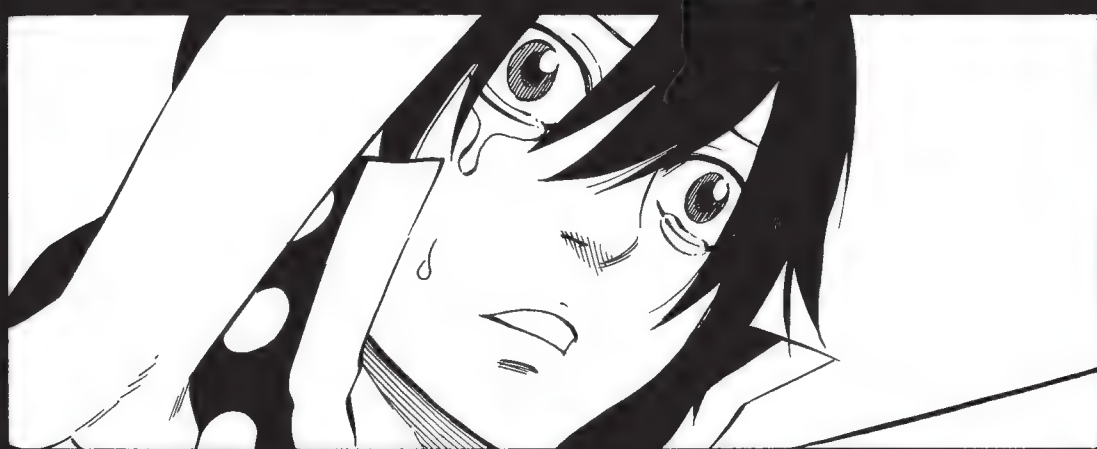
I won't
reject
you!

I accept
you as
you are!



Don't
give up...

I'm sure
there's
a way to
break the
curse!





Mavis...



Yes!

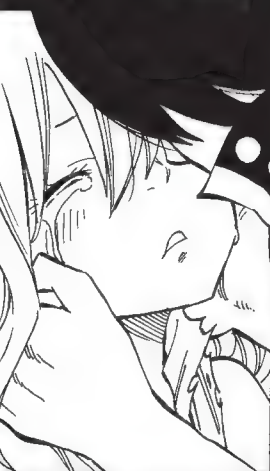


Together
...?



No...

No one has
ever been this
kind to me
before...



And
I've never
loved so
deeply...




You
may have
just for-
gotten,
but...

...I'm
sure...



*The
singular
magic
known as
"love."*

*This is
the true
root of
magic.*

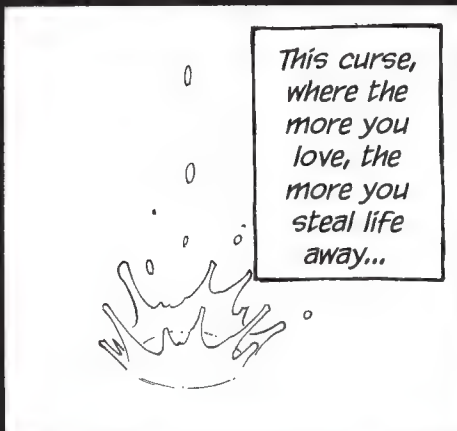


*And this
love between
the two of
us under a
contradictory
curse...*




*Love can
perform
miracles.*

*But at
times, it
can also
bring
sorrow.*



*This curse,
where the
more you
love, the
more you
steal life
away...*



*...brought
about con-
tradiction
in the end.*

*It had
granted me
immortality,
and yet it
stole my
life away.*

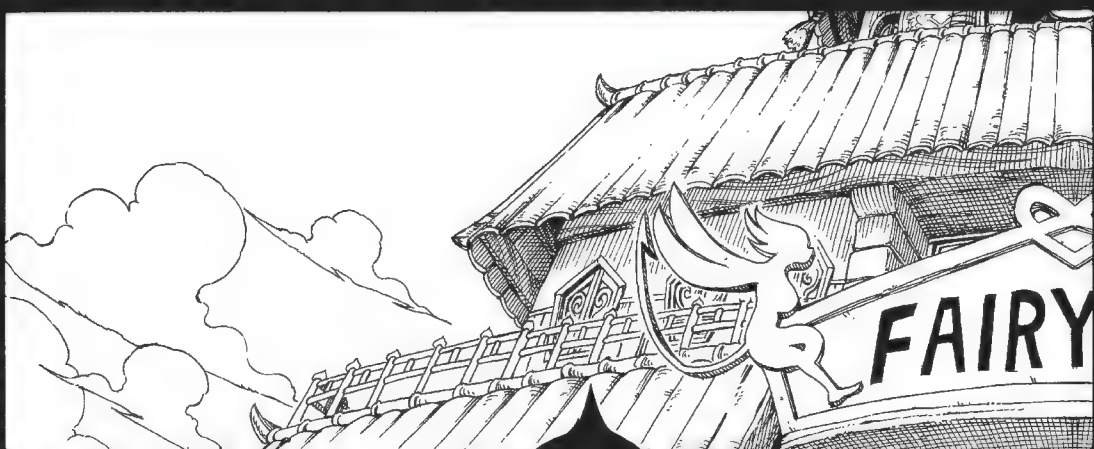


FAIRY TAIL

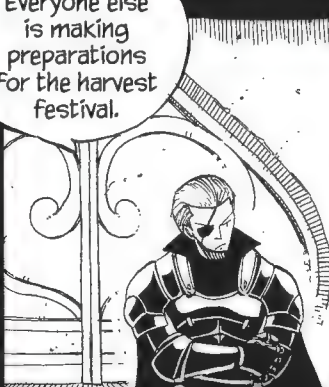
フェアリーテイル

Chapter 451: Fairy Heart





Yeah...
Everyone else
is making
preparations
for the harvest
festival.



Are... you
alone?



She's been
gone a
whole year!
We were
worried
sick!



Master...?
I see. This
was a guild,
wasn't it?



Ever since
Mavis vanished,
I've had to take
on the duties
of master...

H-Hey!!
How can you
treat her like
that?! She
isn't just
some doll!



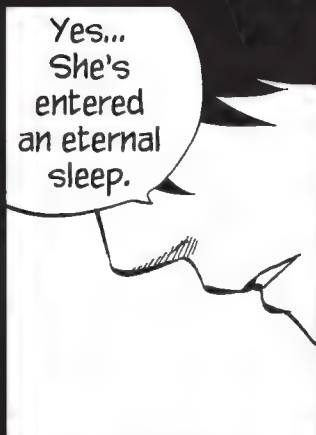
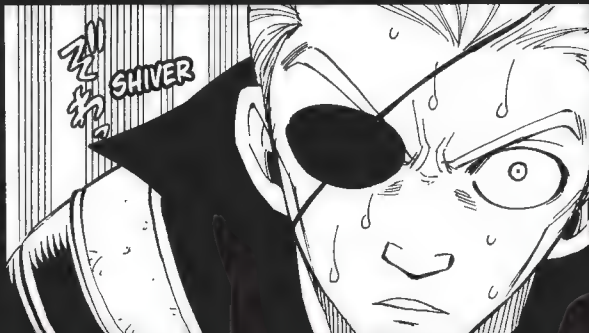
THUD

I've come
to return
Mavis to
you.





This thing
won't move
on its own
ever again.

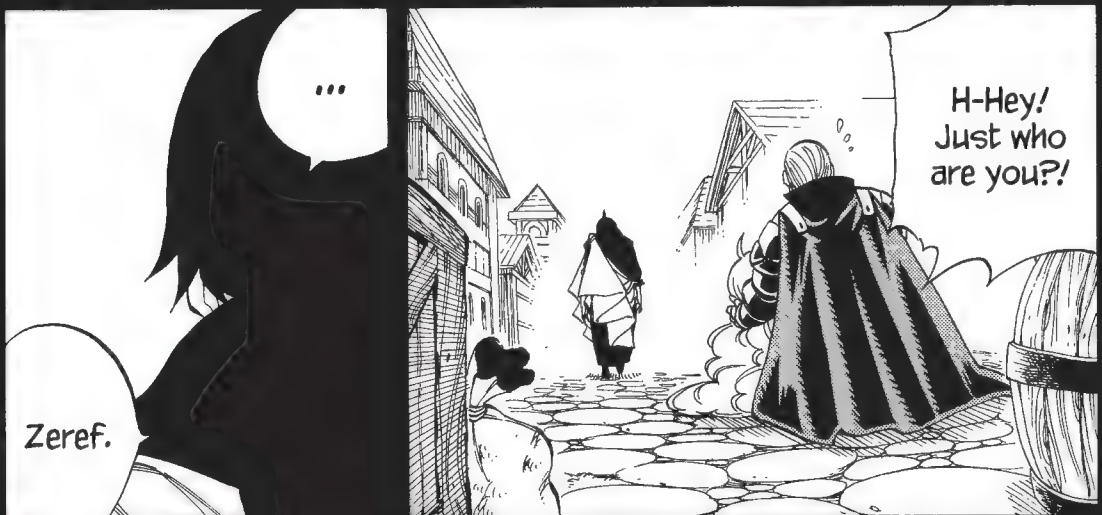


Yes...
She's
entered
an eternal
sleep.



Mavis!!
Are you all
right?! What
happened to
you?!

Are
you just
sleeping?





Yes, I will
return to my
game.

I am
exhausted...

In
Alakitasia, I
won't have to
worry about
encountering
people.

...and wish
to meet no
one.



One
I must
never
repeat...

Love was a
mistake.



Mavis!
What
happened
with him
?!

How did
you get
like this?!



Zeref...

That's the
legendary
Black
Wizard?!

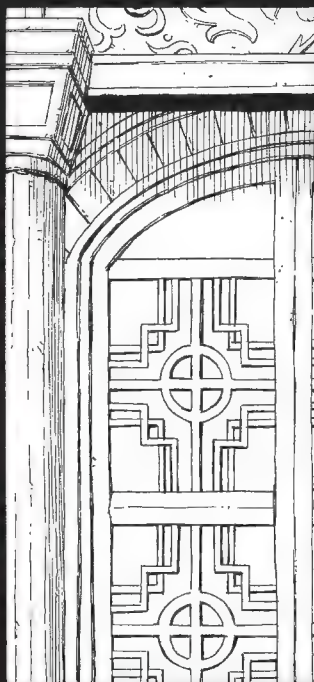


Are you
really
dead?



*I need to
revive her
now!*

No...
Her heart
still lives...
It's not beat-
ing, but I feel
faint traces
of magic!



I know
we have a lacrima
used for revival.
It should be in the
guild's basement
that's still under
construction!

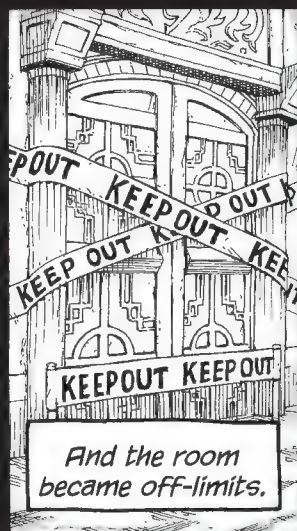


*That's how
my body was
incased in a
lacrima.*



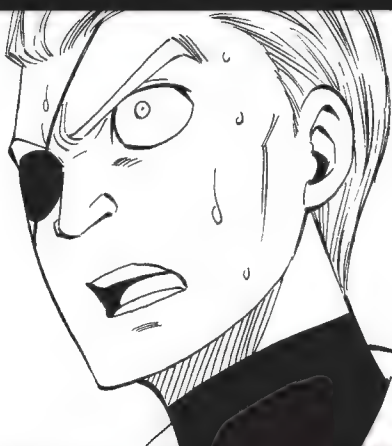
*A number
of revival
magics
were tried
on me...*

*...but none
had any
effect.*



*And the room
became off-limits.*

He figured out that I was under the curse of Ankhselam.



But there is a reason why Precht would go on to be called a genius.

Thus, I was kept a secret even from the rest of the guild.



The other guild members...can never know of this...

Don't tell me...she was the true cause behind Rita's ...



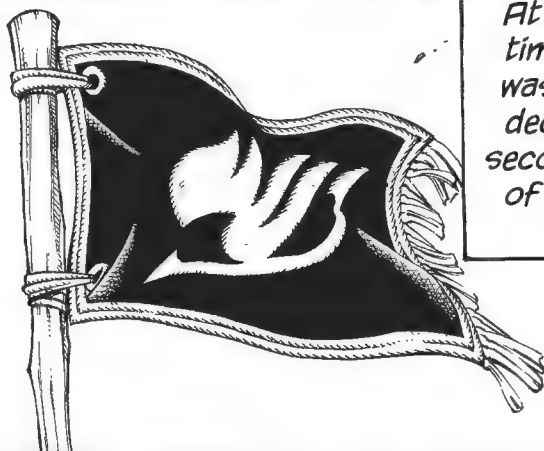
Sirius Island was not just my home, but where I first met Precht and the others.



In the year X697, Precht made the decision to tell everyone that I had died.

And an empty grave was arranged for me on Sirius Island, the guild's sacred ground.

It was in accordance with a will I had left behind.



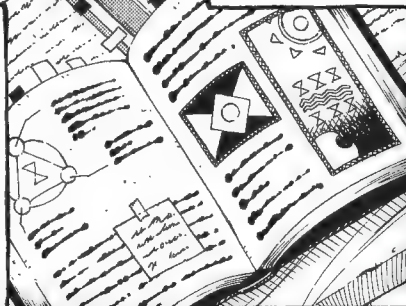
At the same time, Precht was formally declared the second master of Fairy Tail.

Three years later, in X700, Makarov's father Yuri passed away, never knowing the truth about his wife's death.



He carried out his duties as master...

...while also fervently searching for ways to revive me.



...but those efforts took an unexpected turn.

And for nearly 30 years, Precht kept trying to revive me...

*...and the
preservation
of my
otherwise
immortal
body...*

*Precht's
rare
knowledge
and skills,
as well
as his
genius...*



*It gave
rise to an
inexplica-
ble magic.*

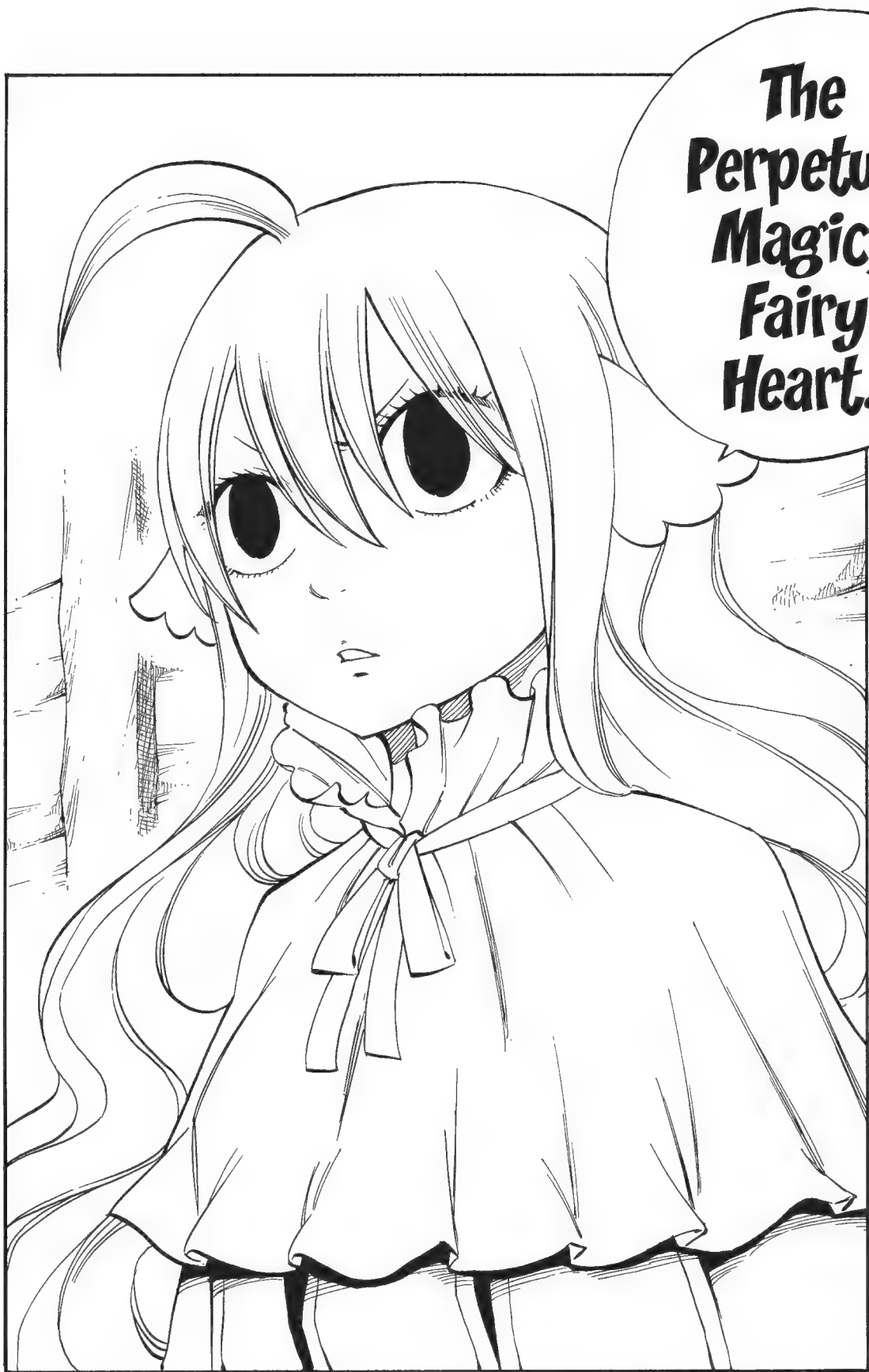
*...proved
to be a
dangerous
combina-
tion.*



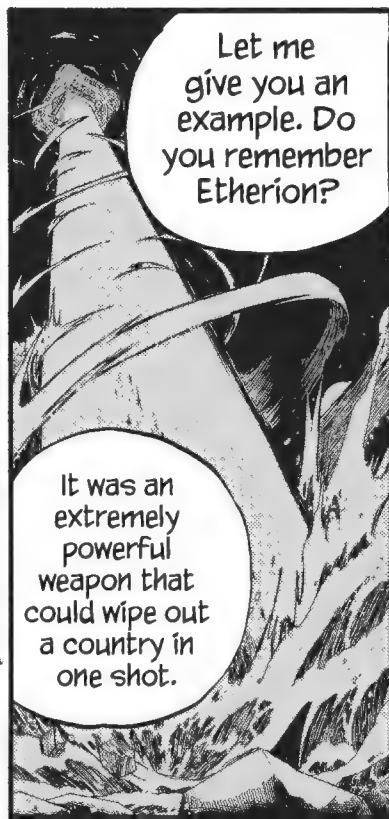
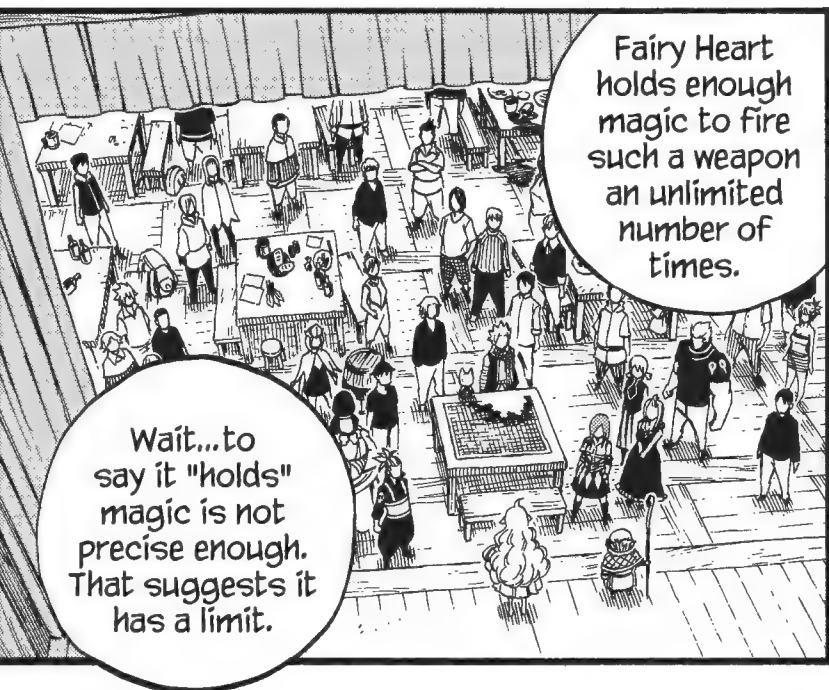
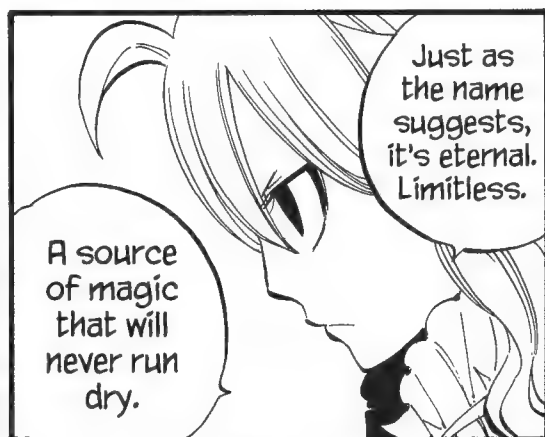
*This
challenges
the very
foundations
of magic...*

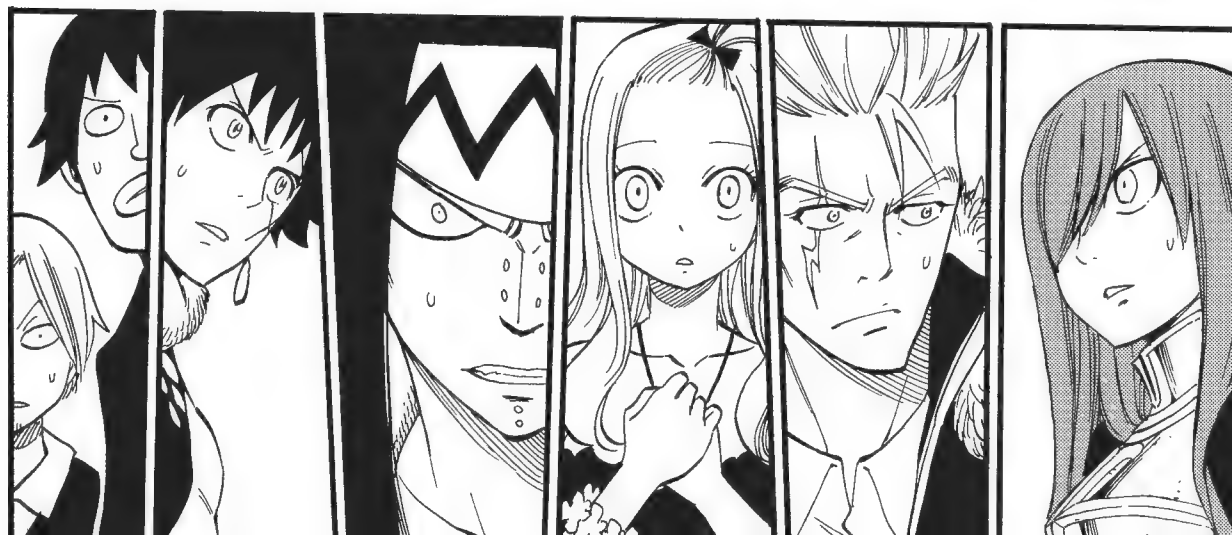
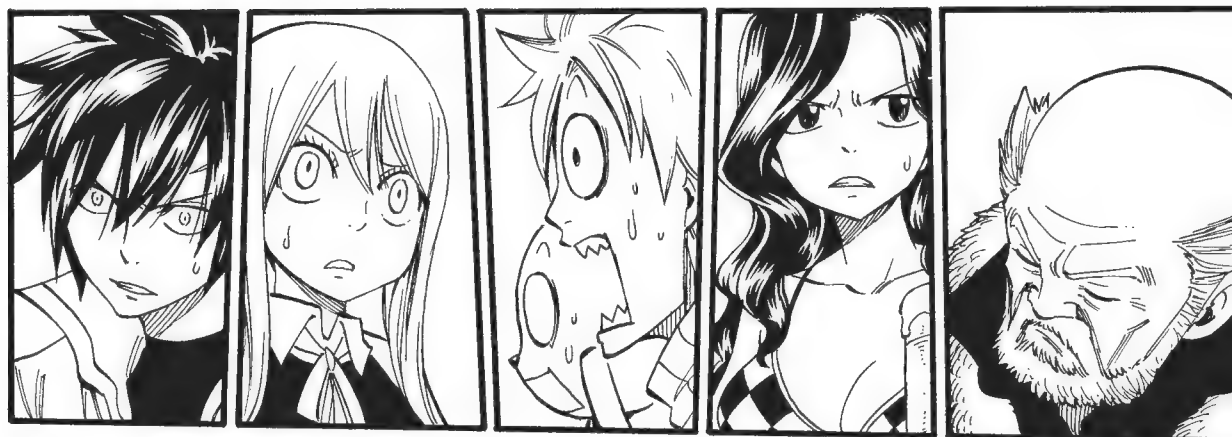
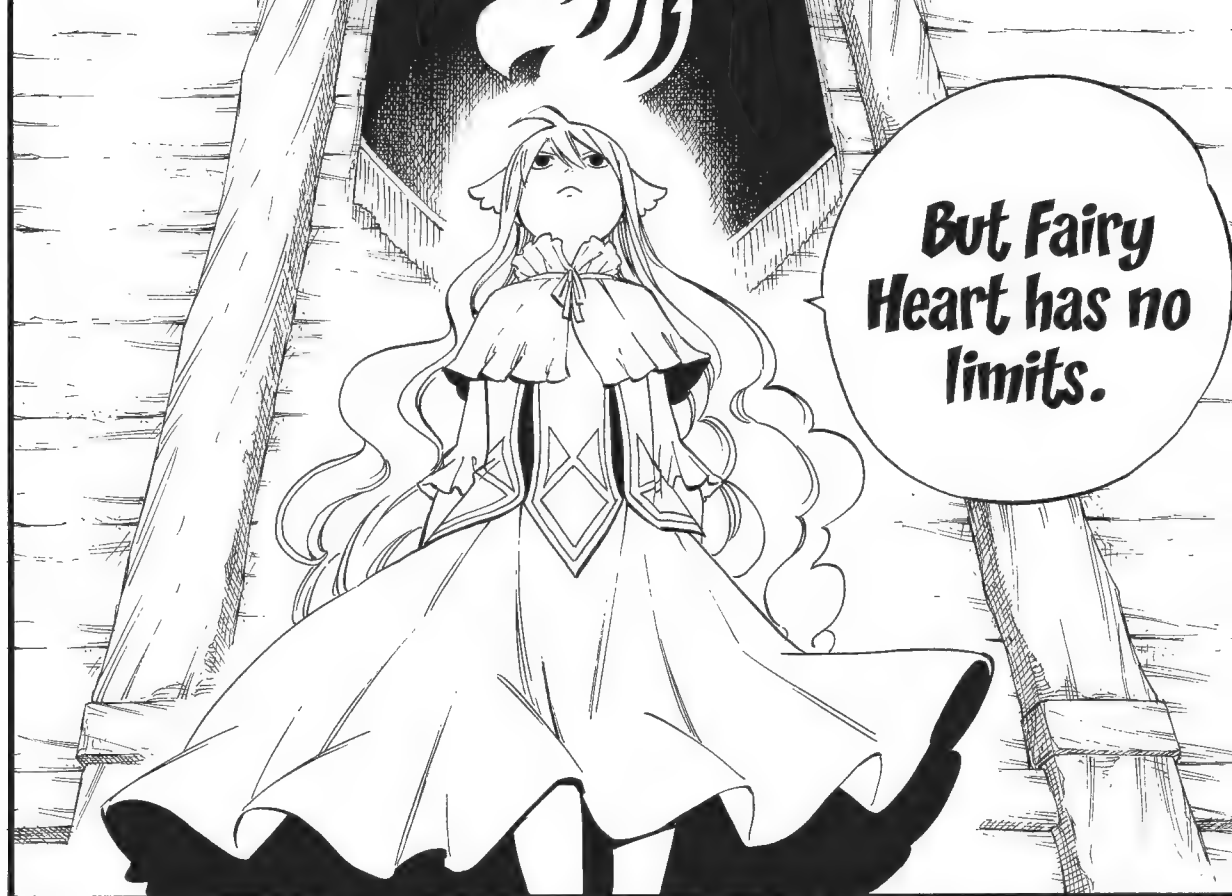
*Wh-
What is
happening
here...?*





**The
Perpetual
Magic,
Fairy
Heart.**









...!!!

Imagine losing control of an Etherion with an infinite power supply... It would be catastrophic...



But let's say we do it, and win one battle. What happens next?



Some would certainly think so. I once thought about using it to defeat Face.



Yeah! Damn straight!!

Nothing is worth unleashing Fairy Heart on the world.

Besides, it's the first master! We're not turning that over to anybody!!



Our best weapon would become our worst enemy.

I'm sorry.

"Weapon"? "Enemy"? We're talking about the first master's body!



I had always hoped it wouldn't bring harm to the guild.

This magic came from my wrongdoing...





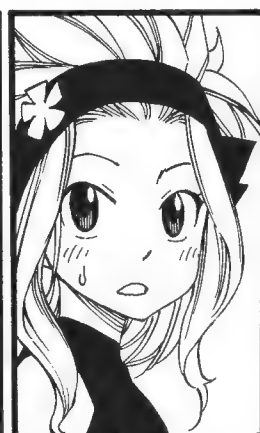
I ain't gonna arrest anybody for that!

Where's the crime in lovin' someone else?




What's the matter with you jerks?!

GEH?




We all want to protect the guild you founded!

That's why we're ready to fight!



First Master, you're the one who connected us all!



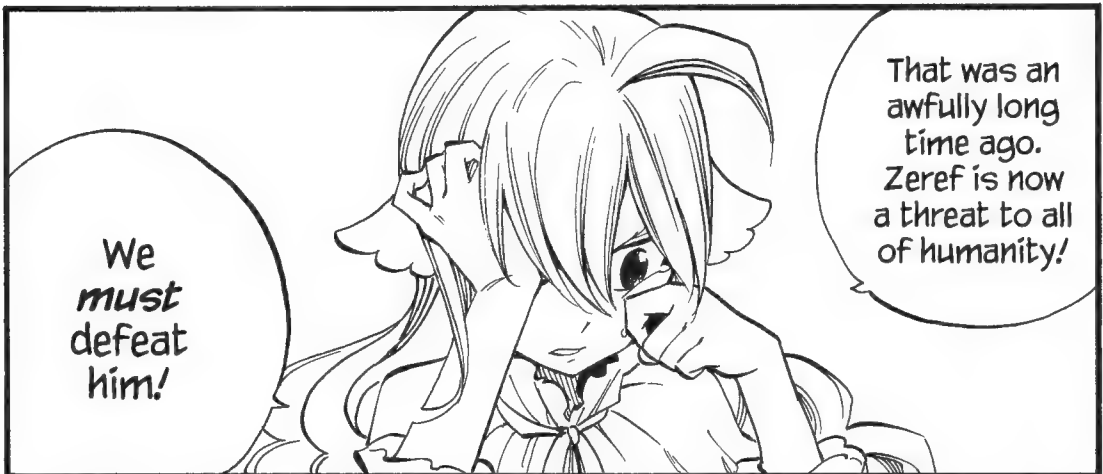
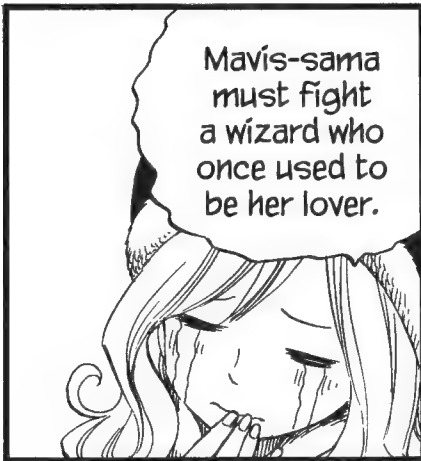
If it weren't for you, Fairy Tail wouldn't exist.

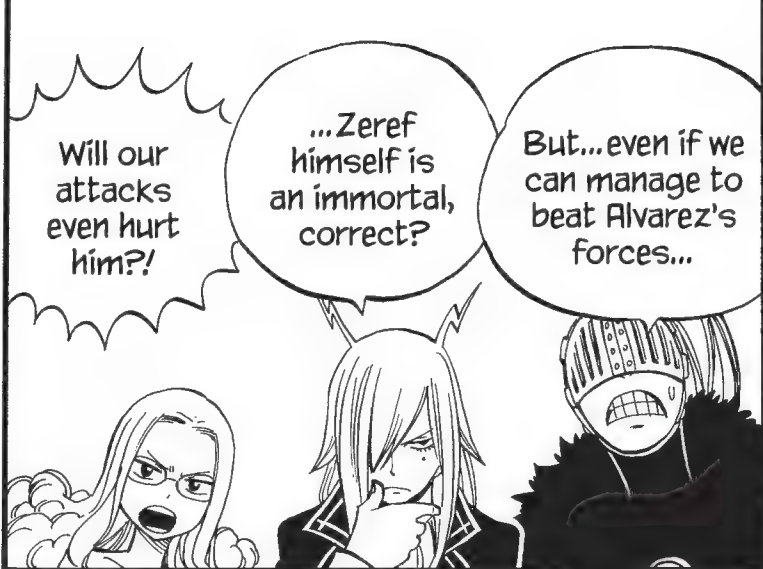
And that means we'd never have met each other!



First Master, please refrain from blaming yourself.

Yes, a bunch of awful things just kept happening, that's all.







I can
take
Zeref
down!

I got
a secret
plan for
that right
here!!

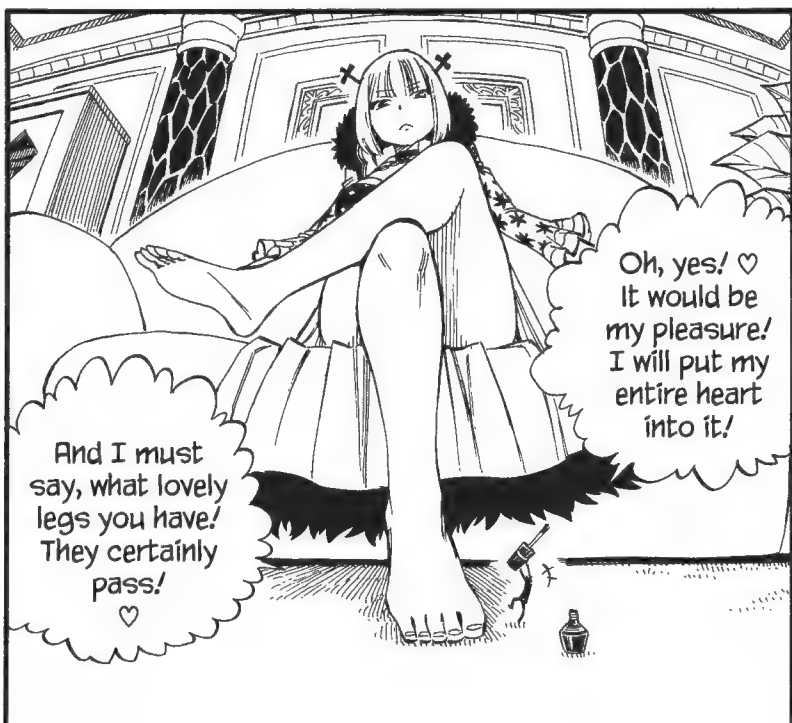
BAM

FAIRYTAIL



Chapter 452: Prelude to the Final Battle





I heard you let
some enemies go?
Everyone's talking
about it.

Randi.

Marí?

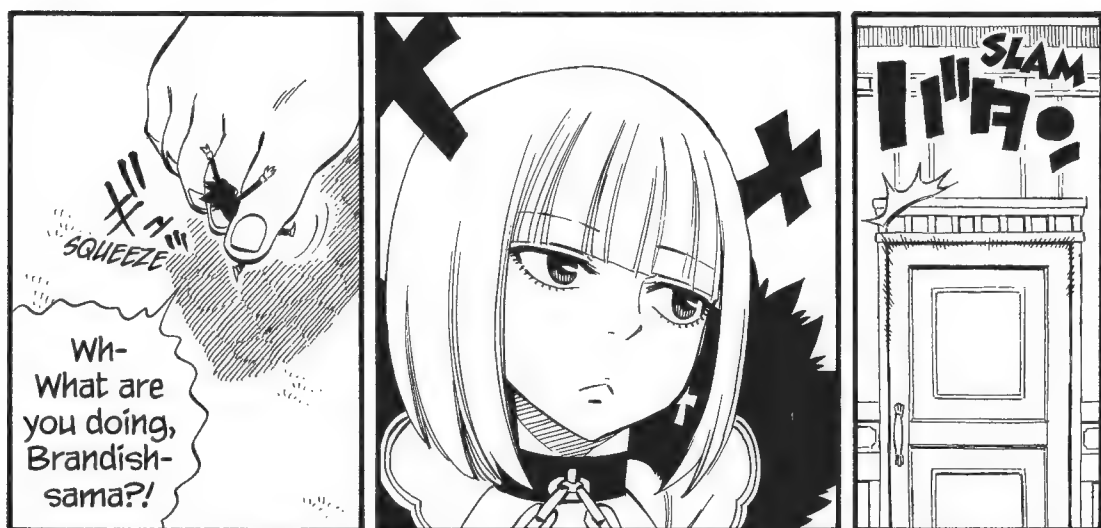
They were
a pain, so
I let them
be.

I let no
one *go*.

Can't you
put him back to
normal? He's like
a little talking
bug. It's creeping
me out.

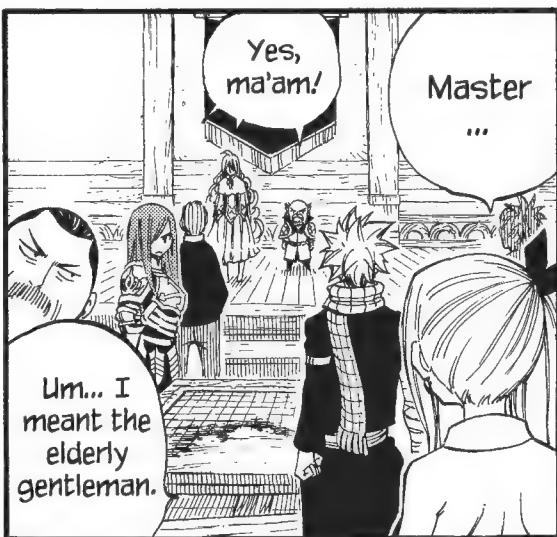
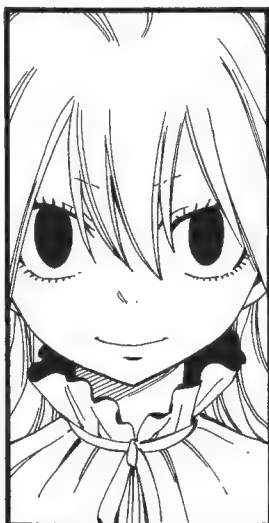
As for me,
I *did* try to
warn her!

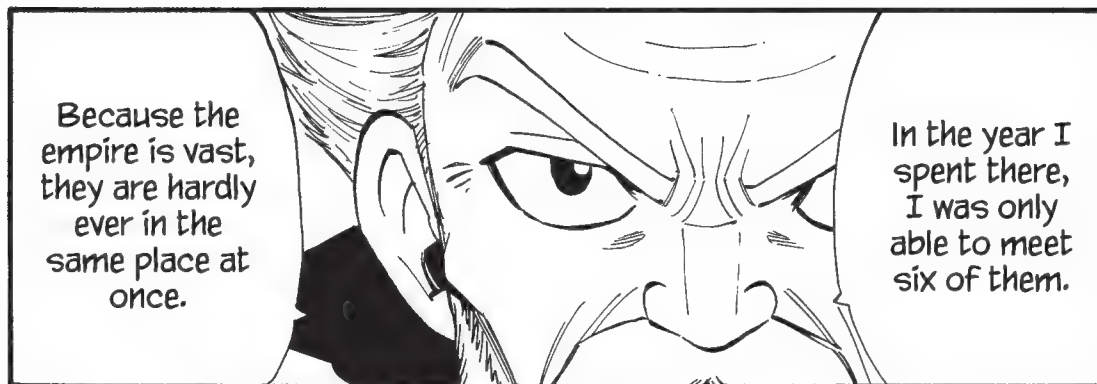
Ah,
DiMaría-
sama! You,
too, pass
every exam!
♡

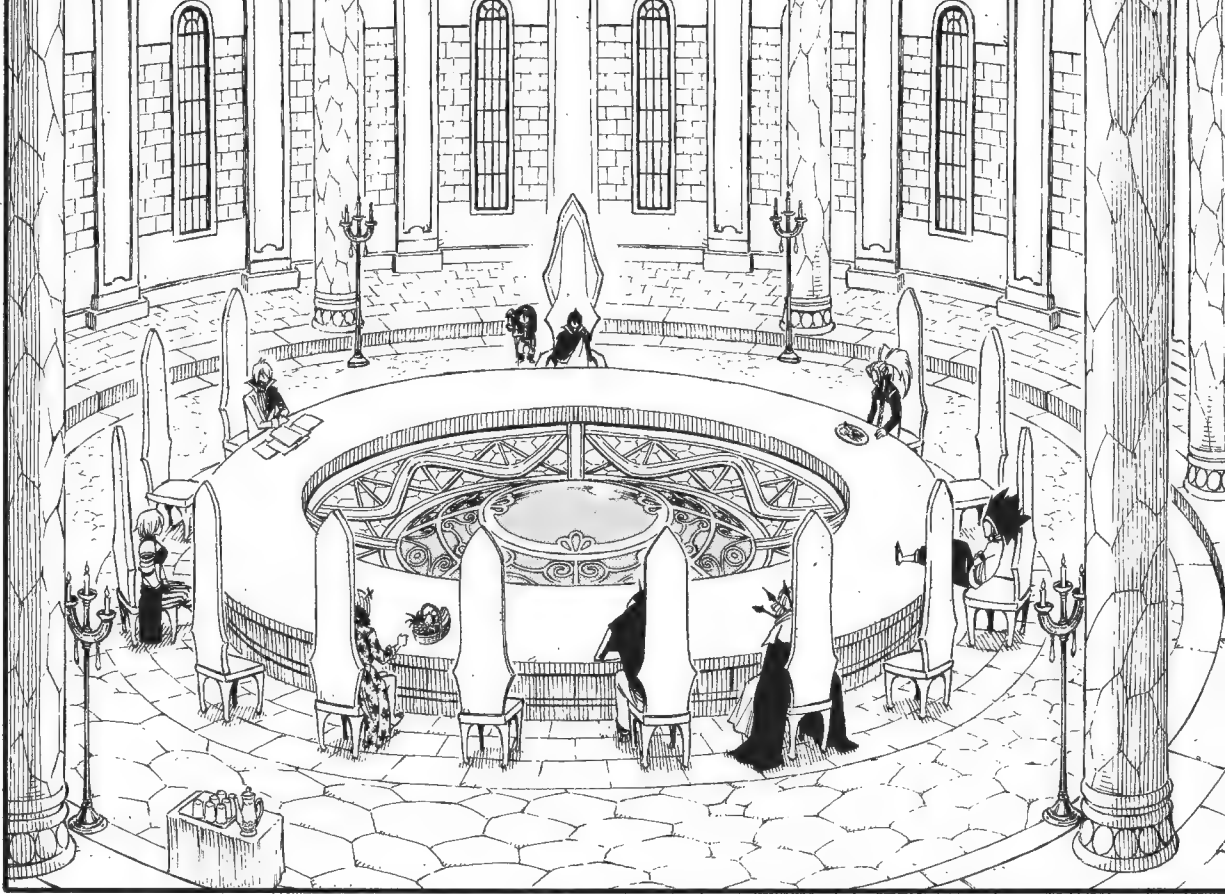












Actually,
Neinhart-sama
is in the palace,
but...
...unfortunately...
uh...

Only
seven?

Still, with
the sudden
summons,
I'm happy
you all could
come.

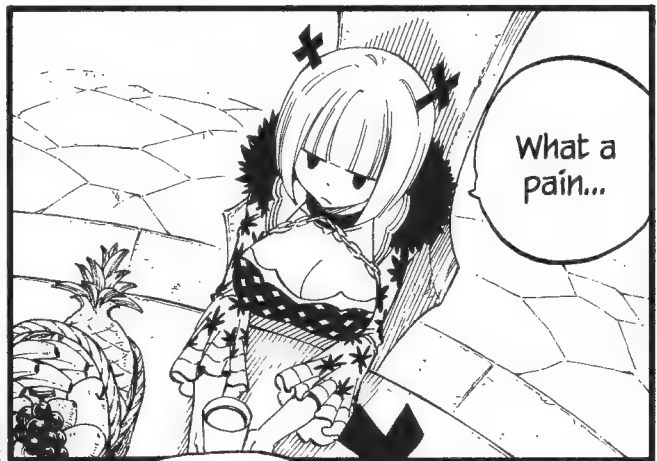
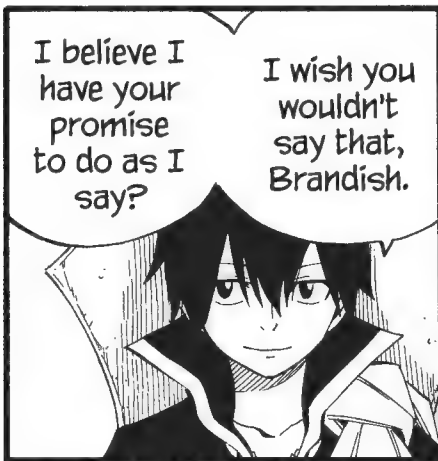
Just as
well.



WINTER
GENERAL
INVEL

I beg to differ!
To defy a direct
order from Your
Majesty is a betrayal
of the name of
The 12.

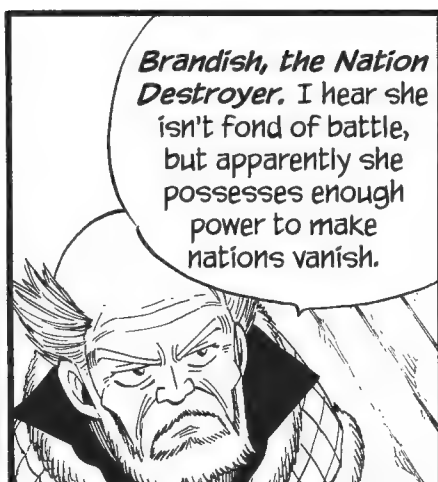




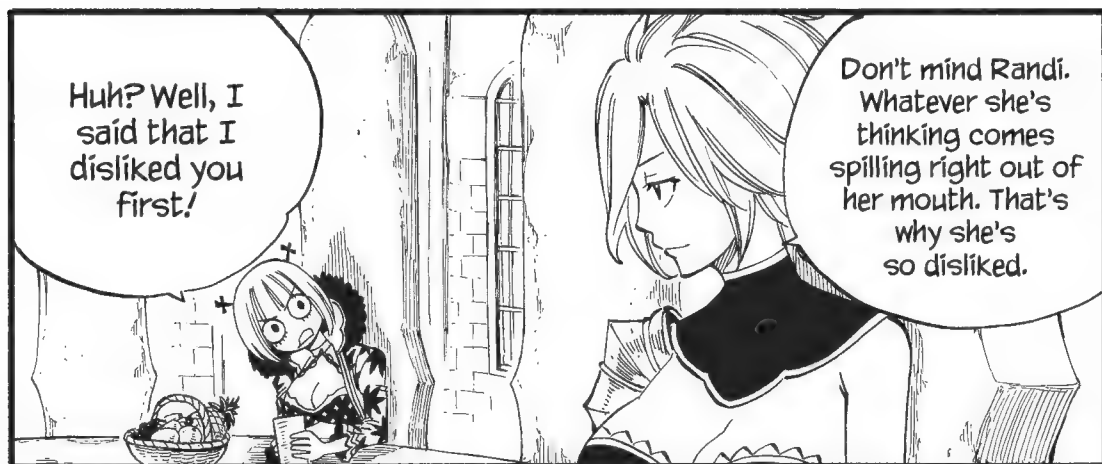


It is my theory that she has the power to change the mass of objects.

We came across her once on Caracol Island.

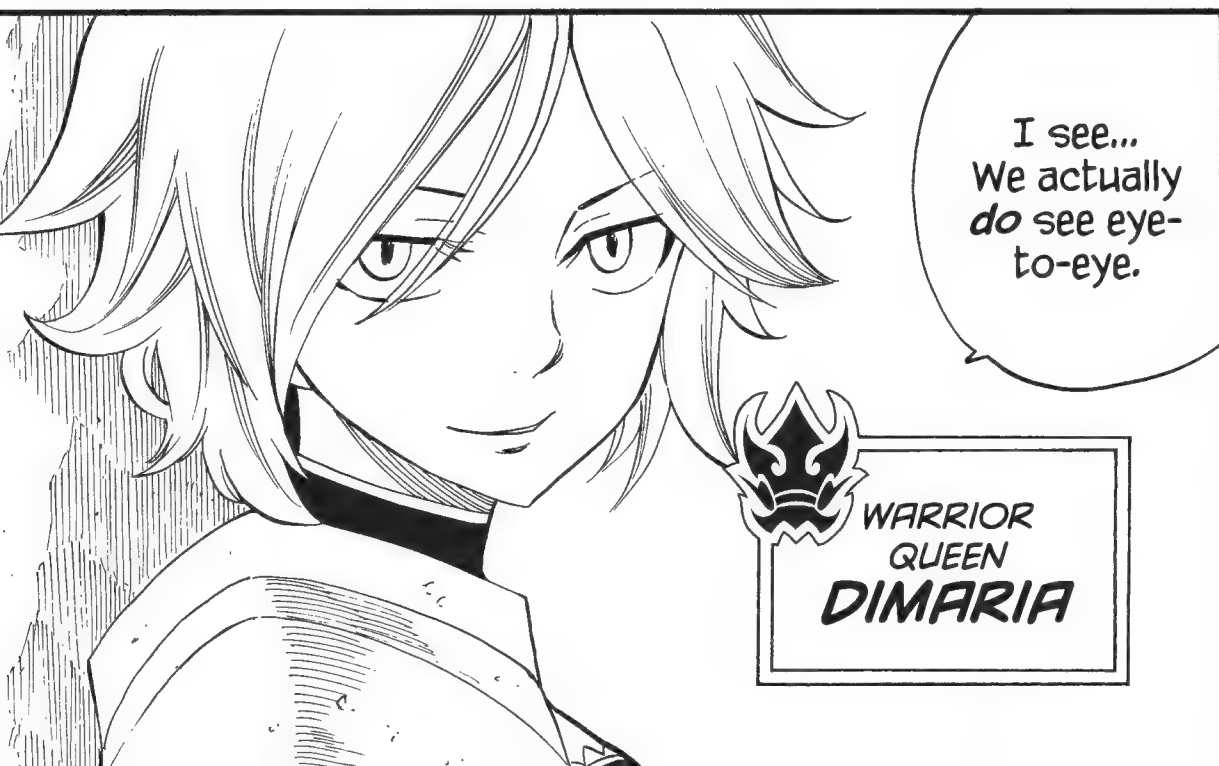


Brandish, the Nation Destroyer. I hear she isn't fond of battle, but apparently she possesses enough power to make nations vanish.



Huh? Well, I said that I disliked you first!

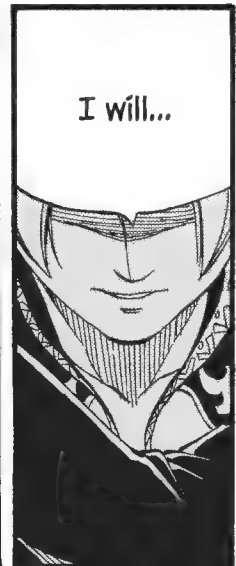
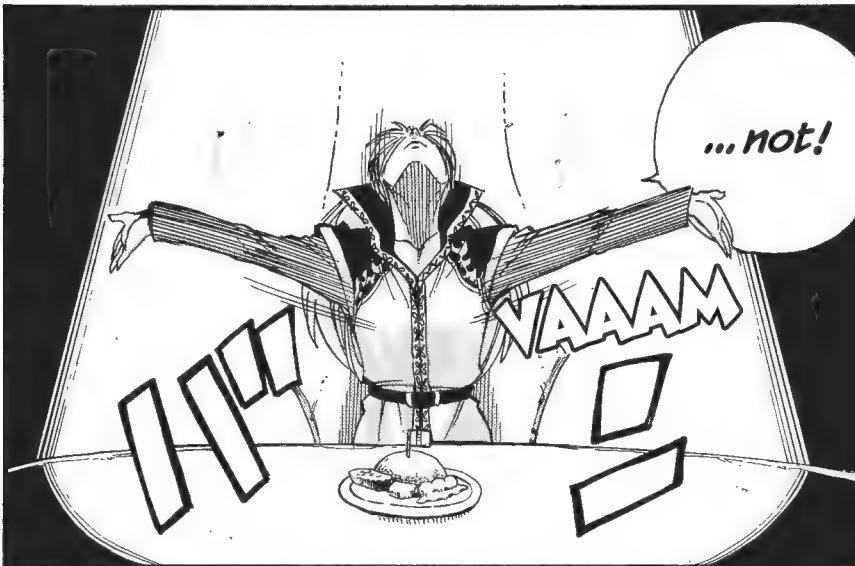
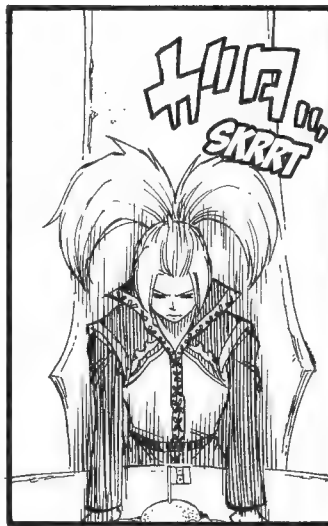
Don't mind Randi. Whatever she's thinking comes spilling right out of her mouth. That's why she's so disliked.

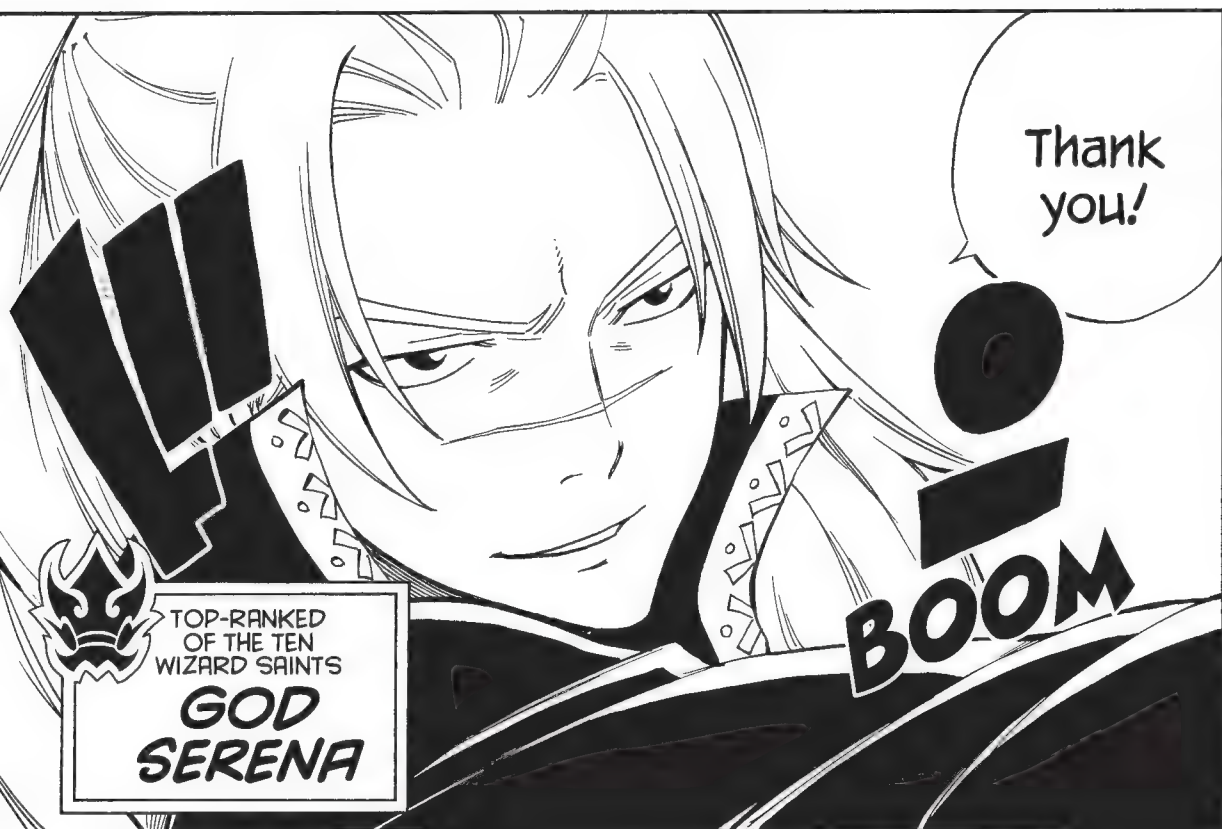


I see... We actually *do* see eye-to-eye.



WARRIOR
QUEEN
DIMARIA





TOP-RANKED
OF THE TEN
WIZARD SAINTS

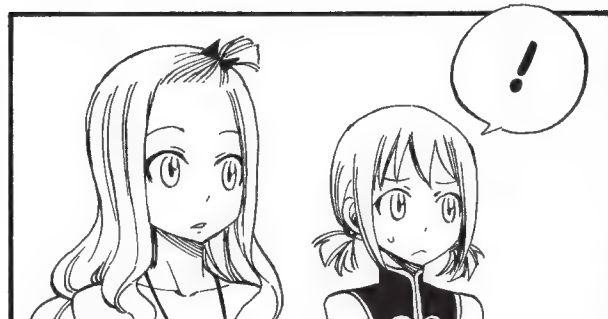
**GOD
SERENA**

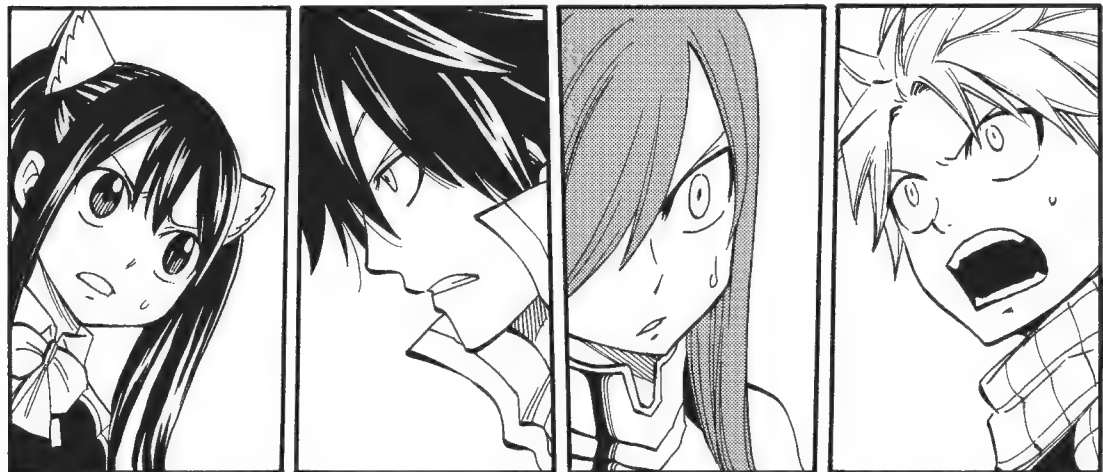
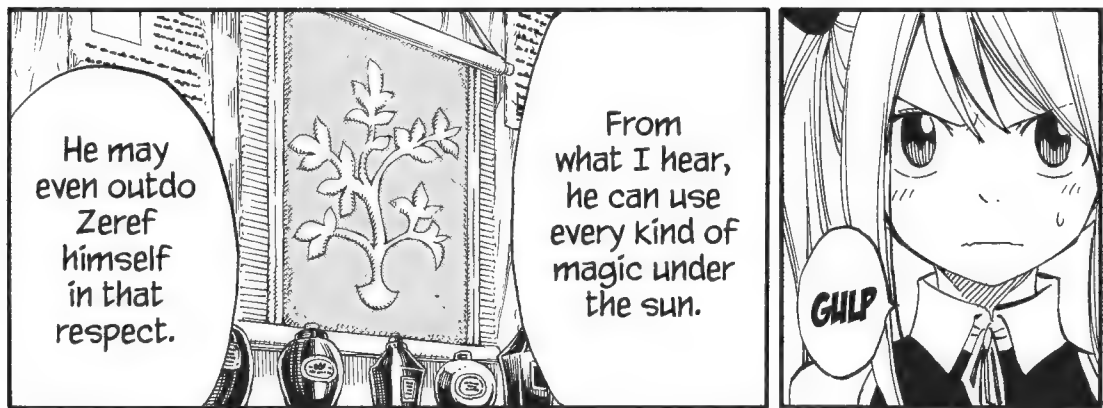
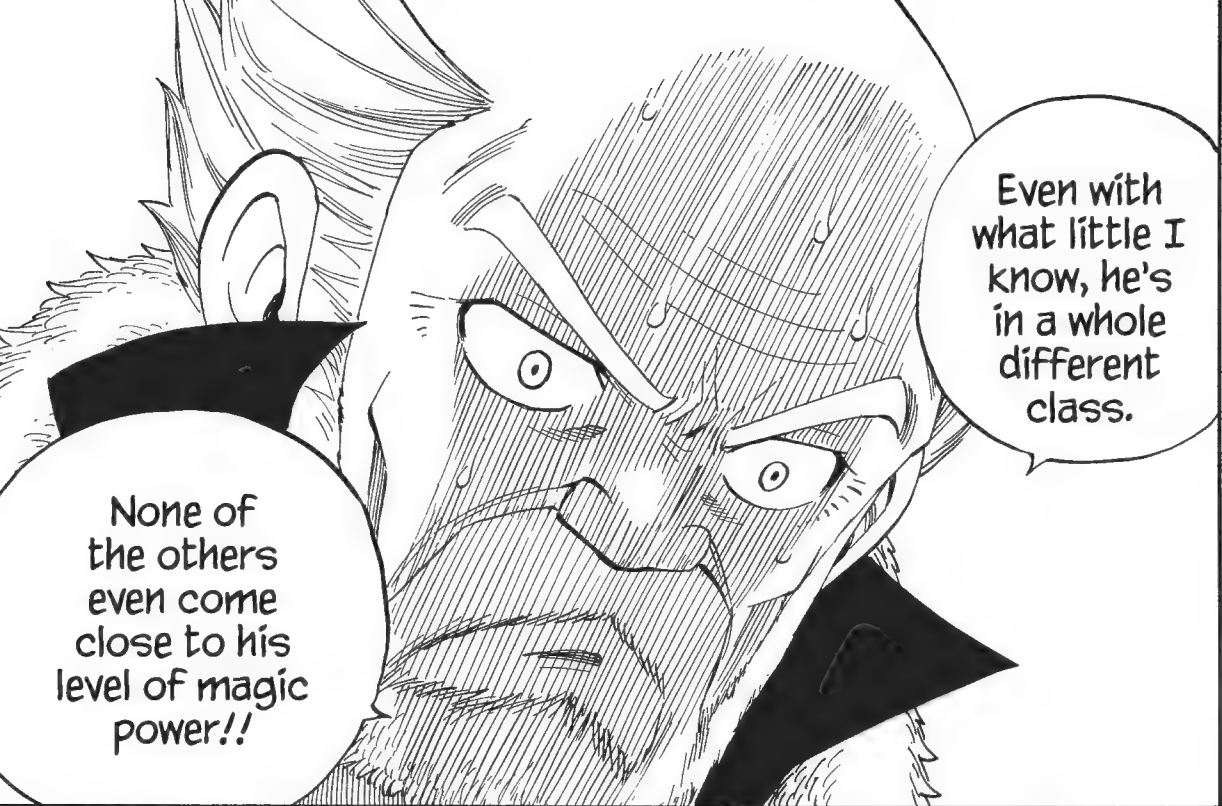
But I'm well
aware of his
strength.



His
personality
is considered
to be a bit of
a disappoint-
ment.

*The top-
ranked
Wizard
Saint,
God
Serena.*







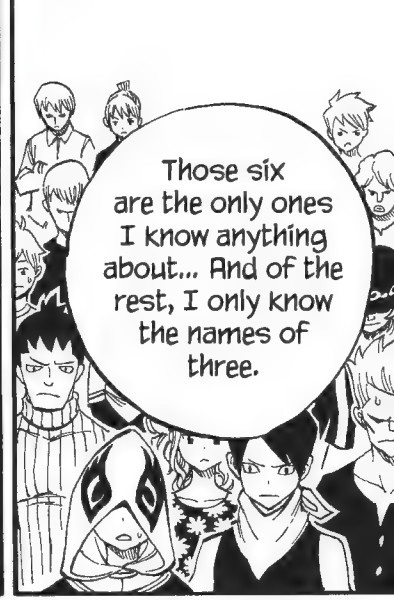
Neinhart

...



Bradman

...



Those six
are the only ones
I know anything
about... And of the
rest, I only know
the names of
three.



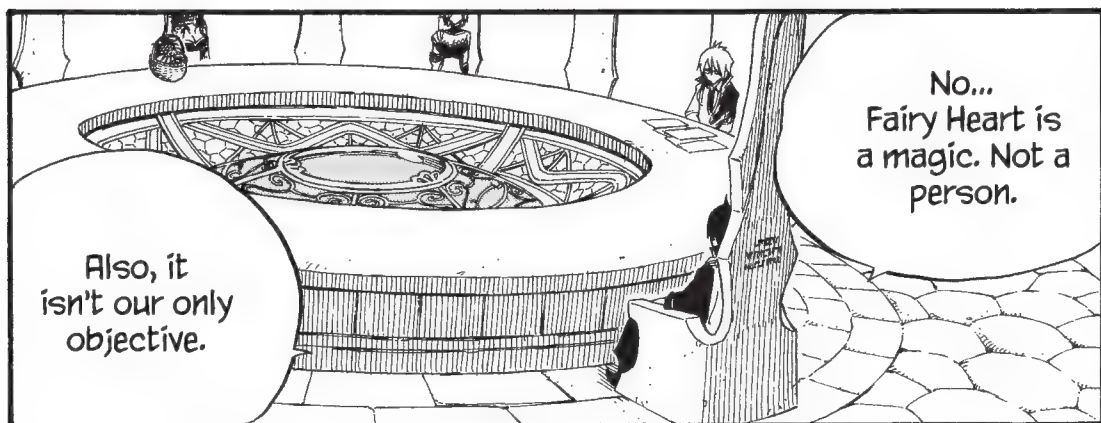
That's
a high
crime...

And
Wall.

In other
words, we're
to retrieve the
body of your
former lover.

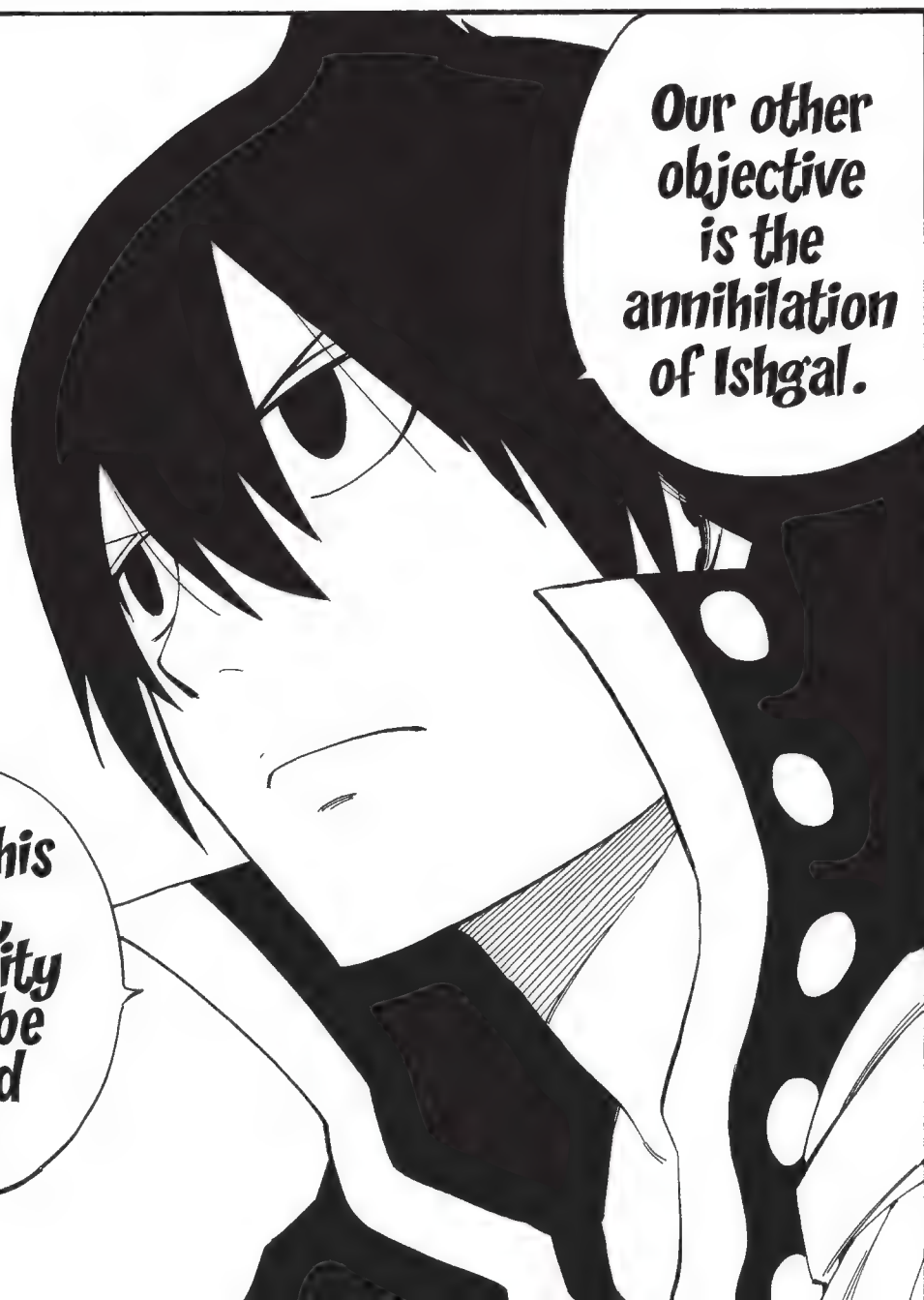


JUDGE
WALL EEHTO



Also, it
isn't our only
objective.

No...
Fairy Heart is
a magic. Not a
person.



**Our other
objective
is the
annihilation
of Ishgal.**

**Just this
once,
humanity
must be
wiped
out.**





This is
an all-out
attack.



Zeref will
strike with
everything
he has.



If so, that
would be fine...



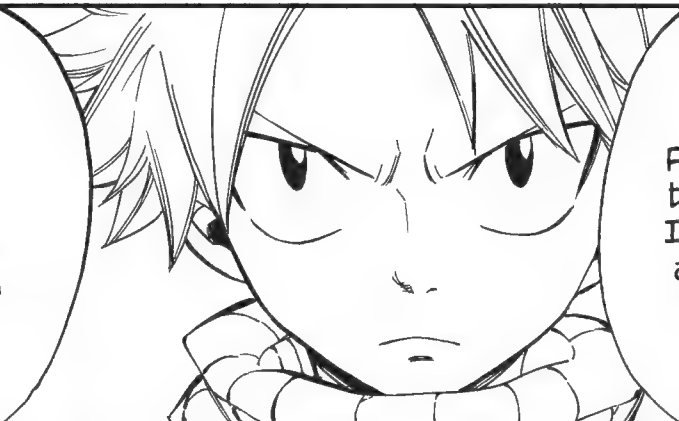
I can wipe
them all
out on my
own!!

Are you
outta yer mind?!
I got enough
power to do this
whole thing! This
is the continent
where a wimp like
God Serena is
the strongest!



I have my reasons.

However, we *will* be combining all our forces for the attack.



This enemy is orders of magnitude stronger than any we've faced before.

According to all the information I can gather, we are at no small disadvantage.



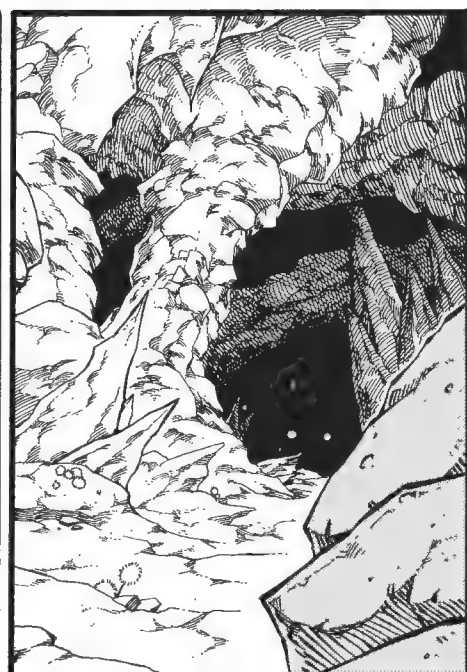
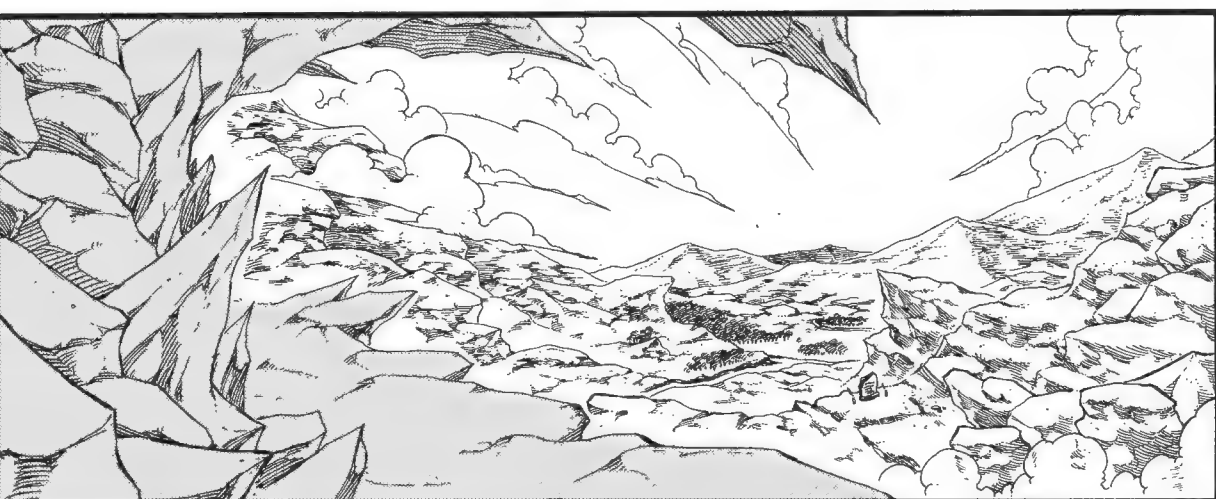
So prepare all troops to move out!

The Dragon King Festival will soon begin.



Let's show them how strong our guild is!!!!

Therefore, we have to fight our way through this with bravery and the strength of our bonds!





**The
Dragon
King
Festival
begins.**

**I will
devour
every-
thing.**



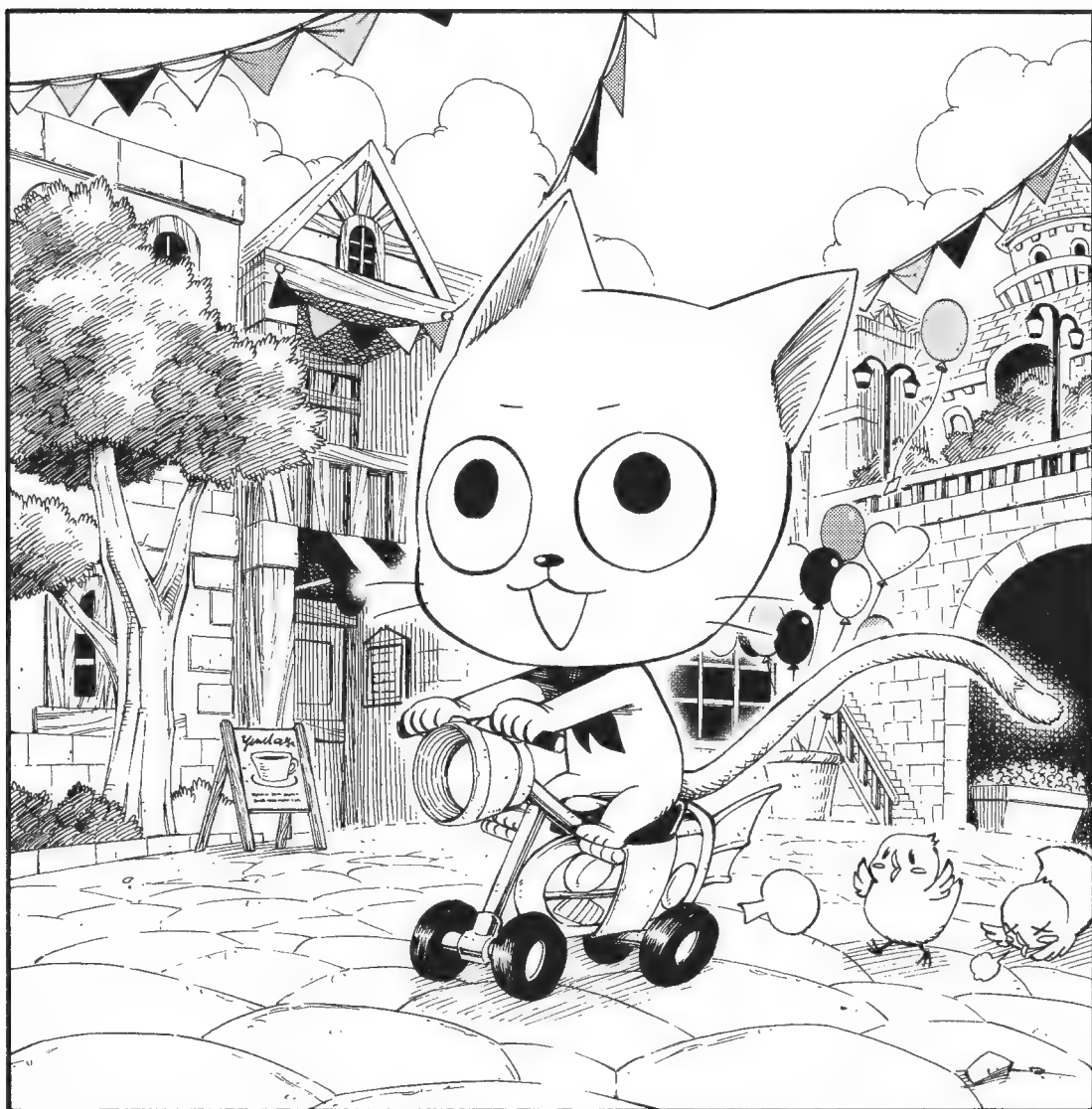
**For I am
the Dragon
King!!
I reign
supreme!!!!**

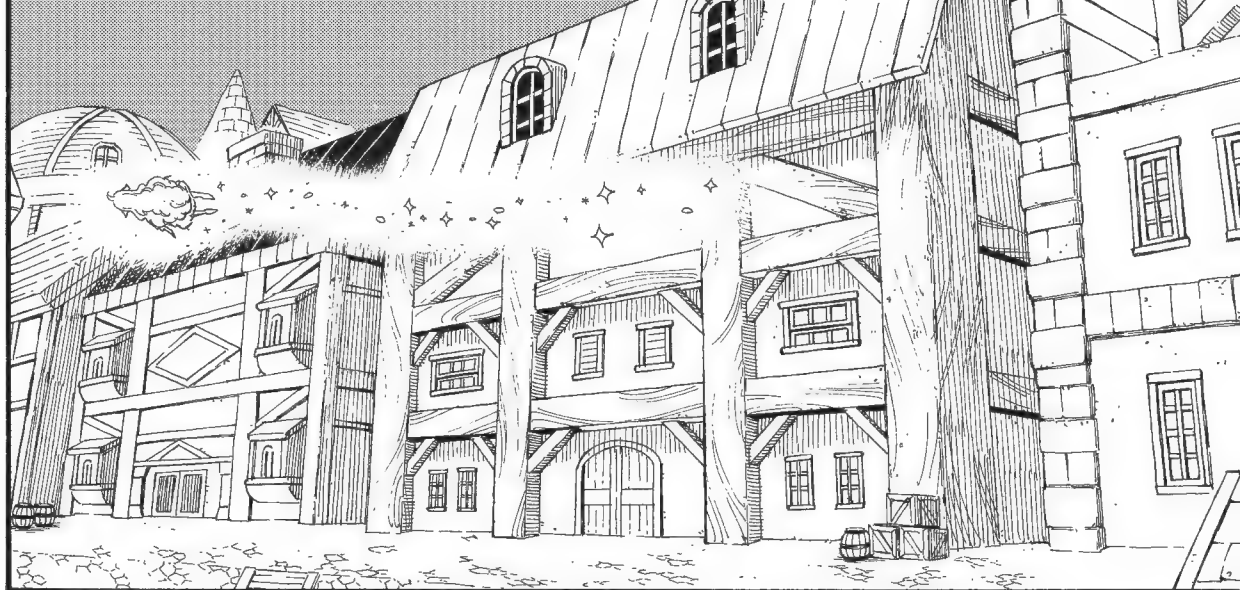
**I am
Acnologia
!!!!**

FAIRYTAIL

フェアリーテイル

Chapter 453: A Father's Job

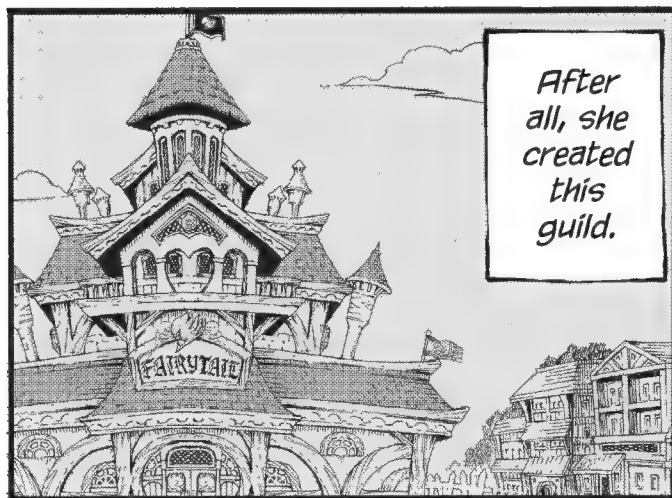






*We must
make sure
it is never
used for
evil.*

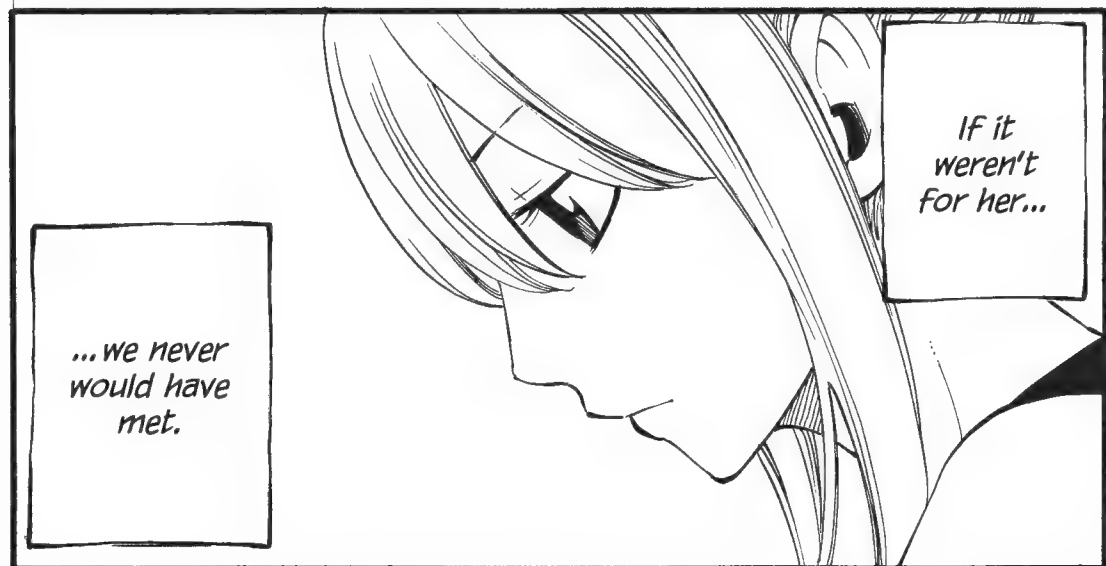
*We have to
protect it at
all costs.*



*After
all, she
created
this
guild.*

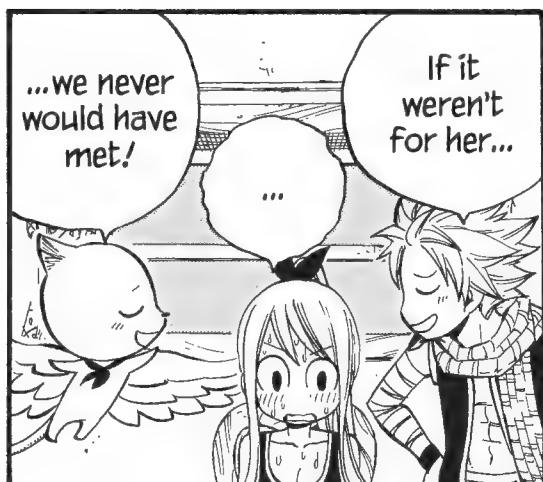


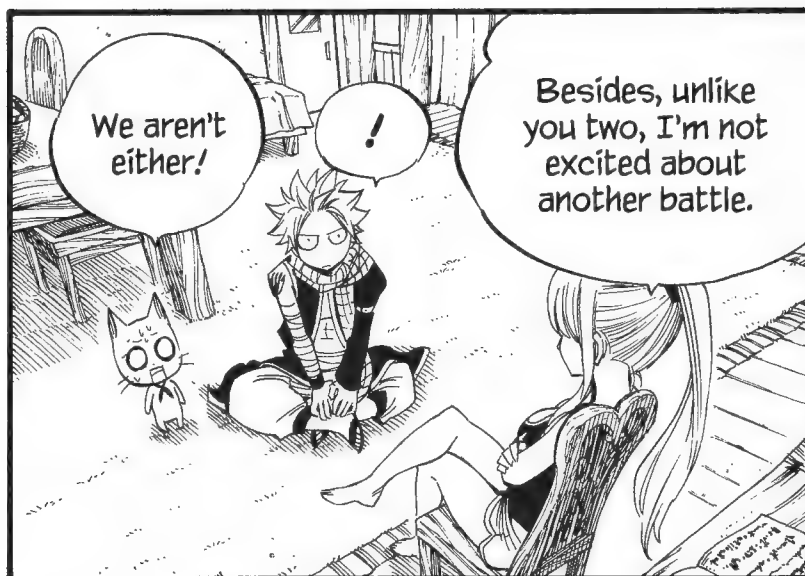
*No... I shouldn't say
"it." This is our first
master, and that's
reason enough to
protect her!*



*...we never
would have
met.*

*If it
weren't
for her...*





We aren't
either!

!

Besides, unlike
you two, I'm not
excited about
another battle.

Is this really the
time for games?
We leave tomorrow
for the enemy's
projected landing
point.



What I like
is pitting my
strength against
others'. I don't
like murdering
people.

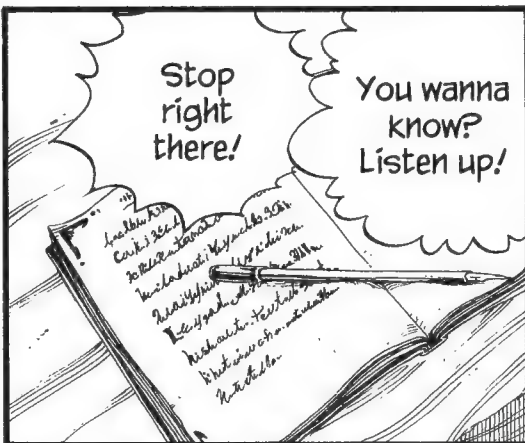
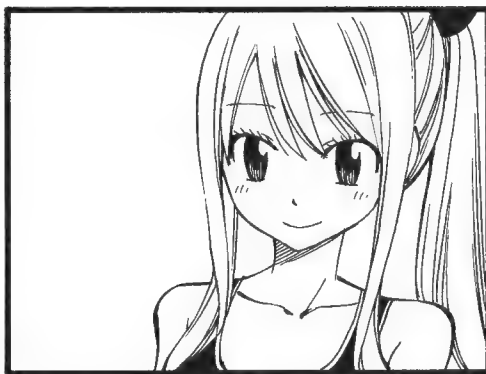
Sure, I like a
good punch-up,
but don't get
me wrong.

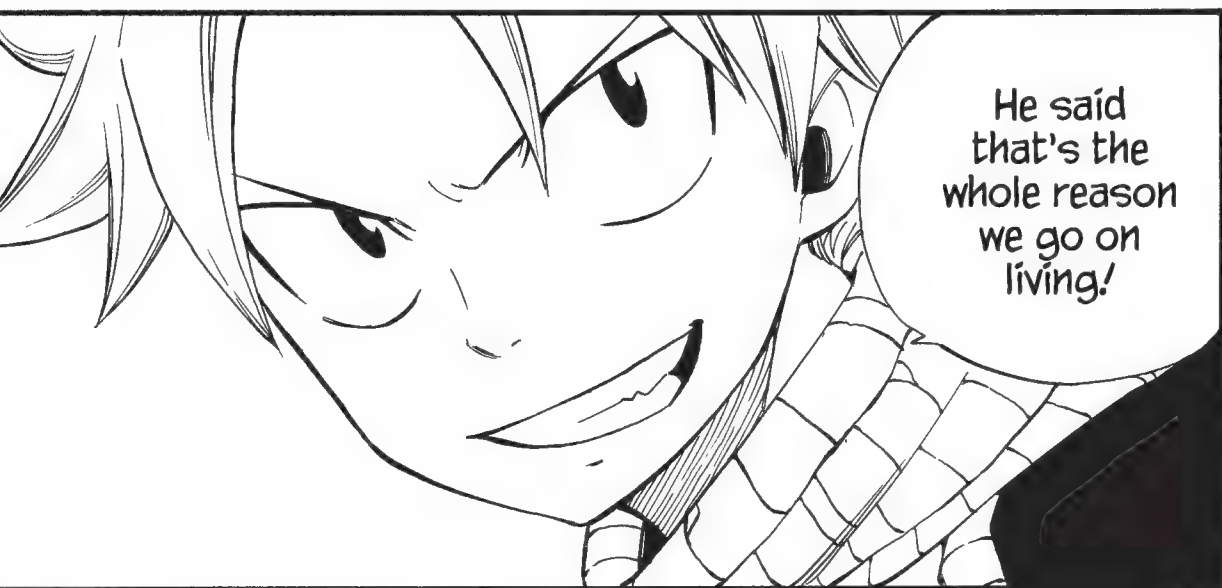
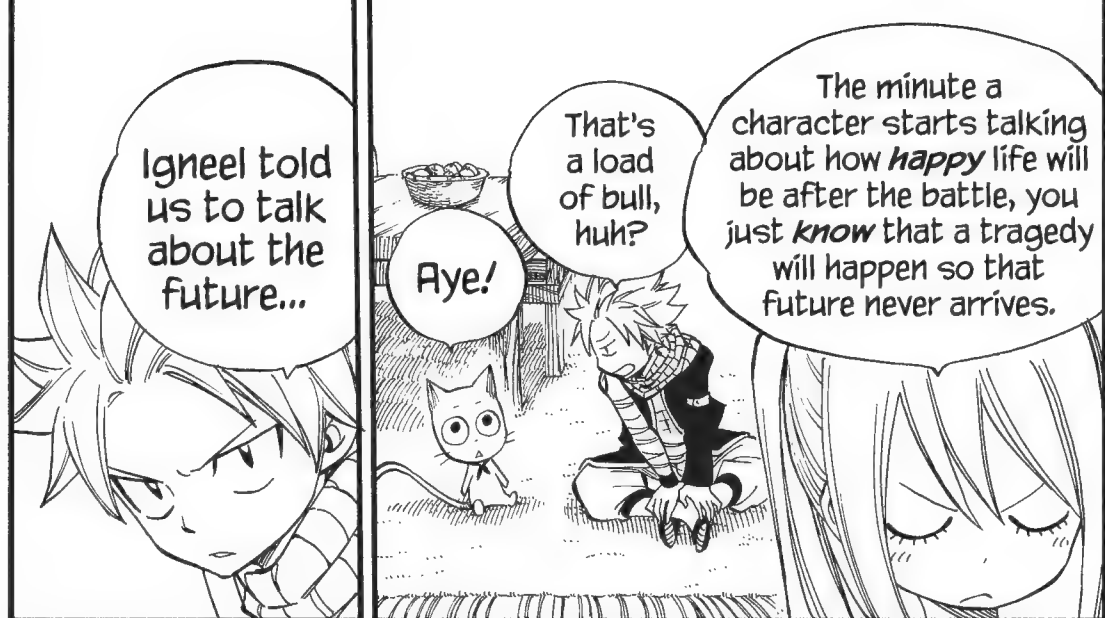


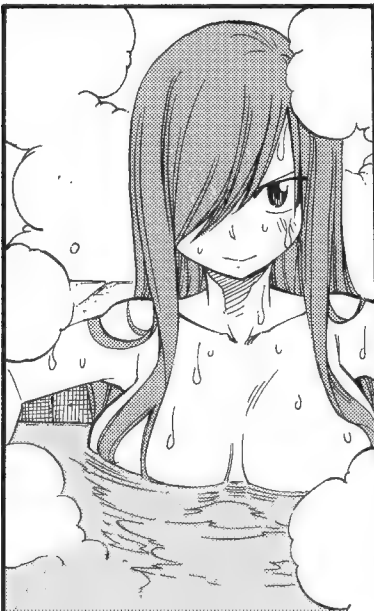
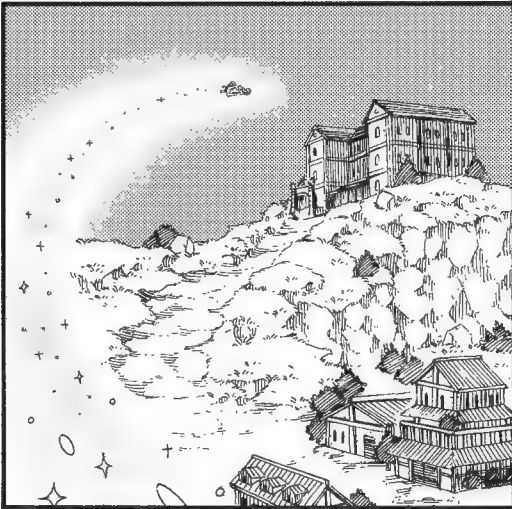
But this
time, it ain't
gonna be like
that.

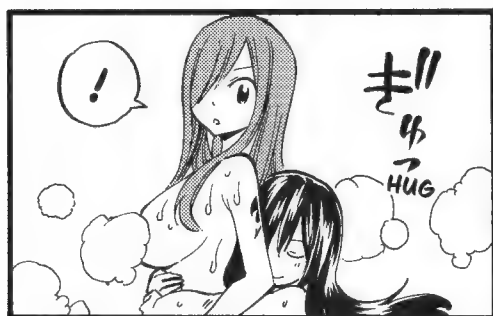
Ain't no
better feeling
than goin'
at it with all
you got and
seeing who
comes out
on top!

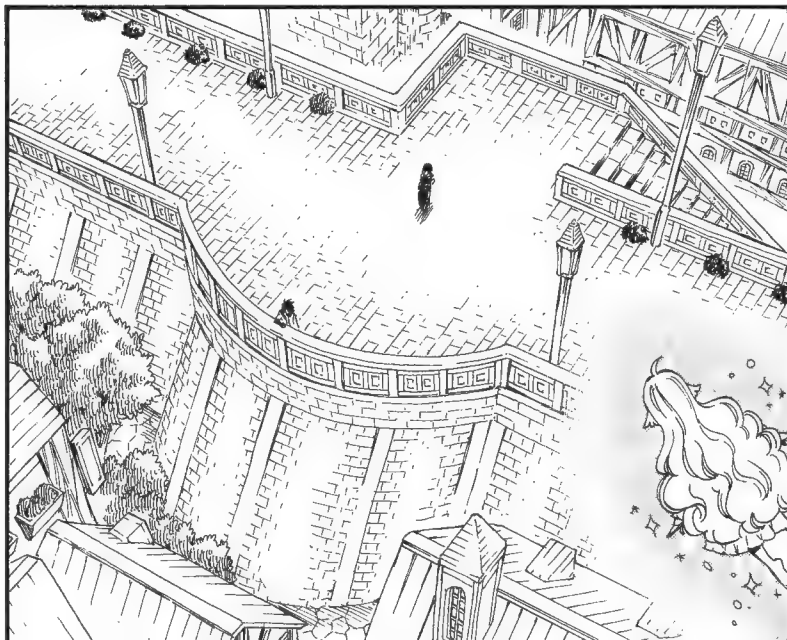
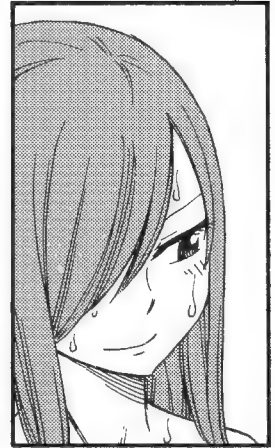


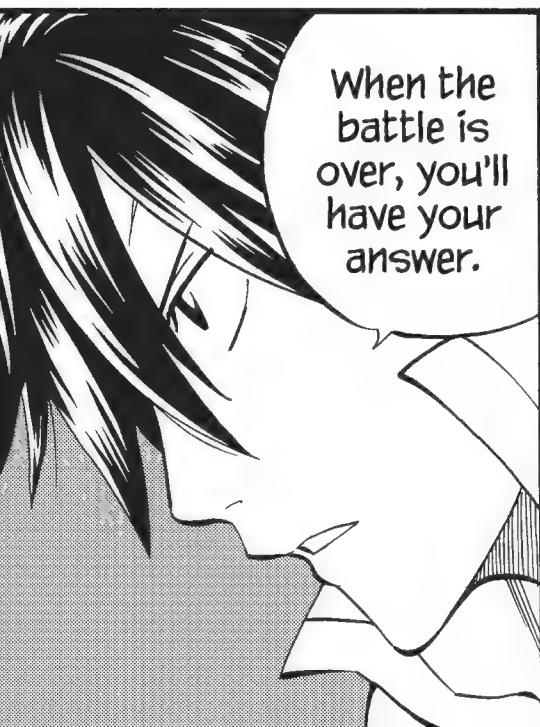
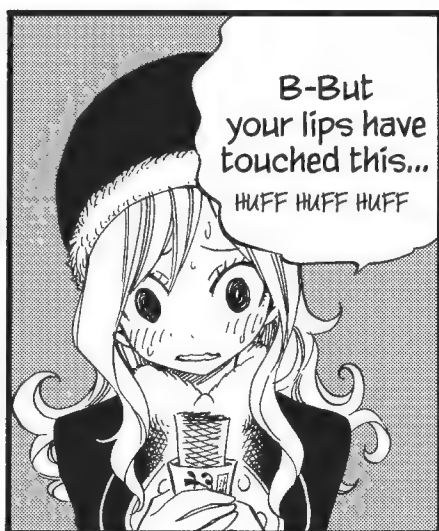
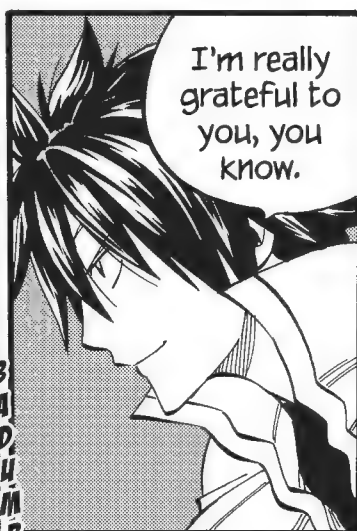


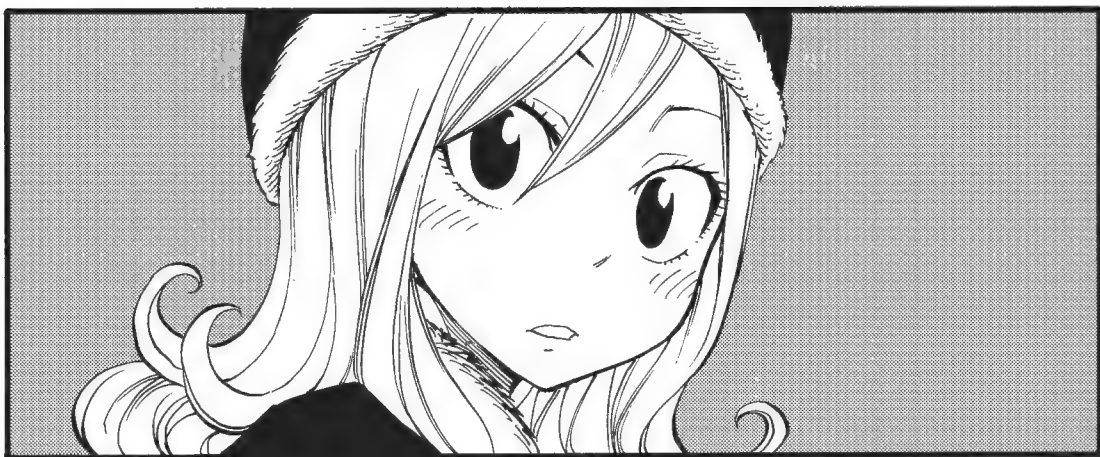


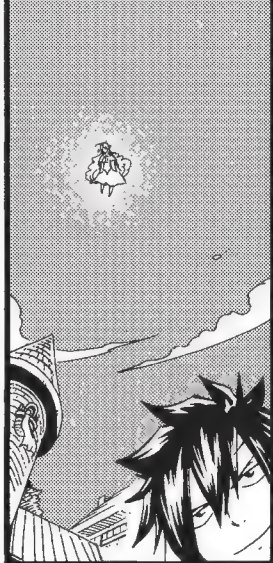
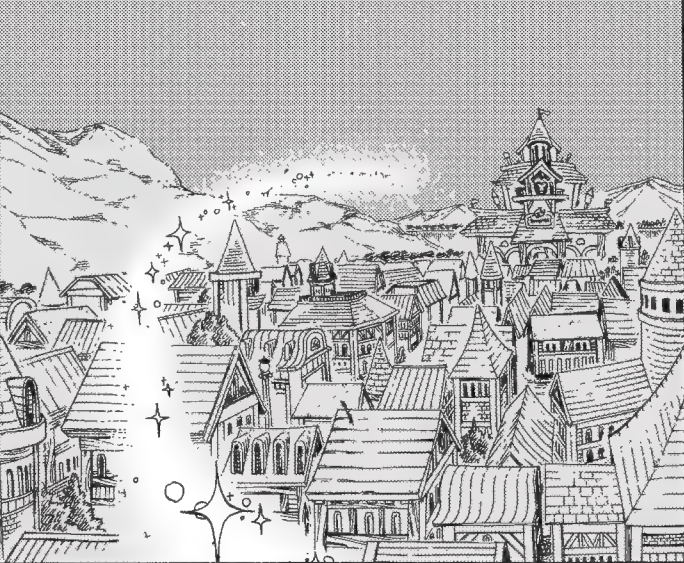












Are they coming from the north, south, or even the west...? If we knew where they'd be landing, we could make better plans.

Hey, I made this top-quality radar myself!!

Can we... really count on that?

Still no sign of them anywhere in Fiore.

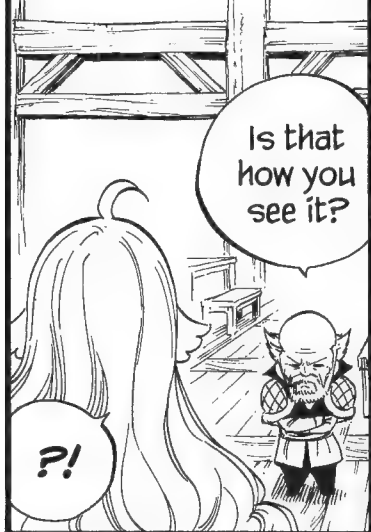
Warren, any enemy movements?

I was observing everyone prior to the battle.

Conventional wisdom would have them feinting a northern invasion while they land their main force in the south.

First Master...

FWOOSH



Is that
how you
see it?

?!



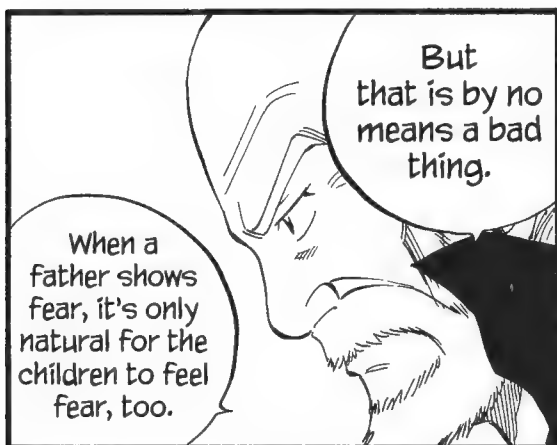
We have
very tough
comrades
here.

Despite the
situation,
no one is
worried.



Because I see
them shoving all
their anxieties way
down deep.

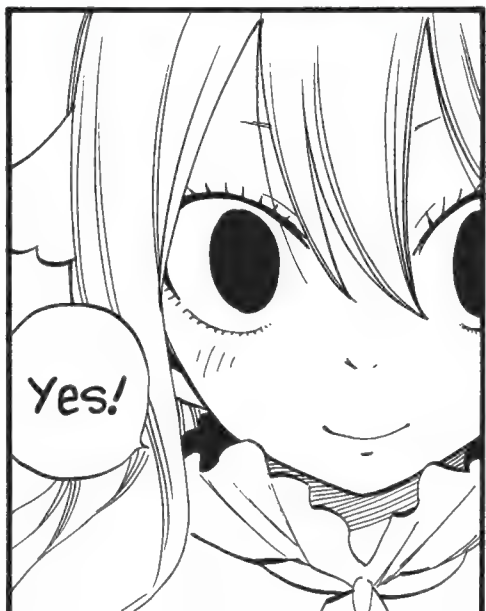
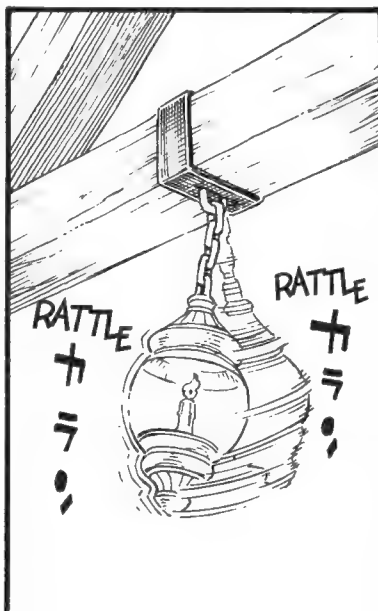
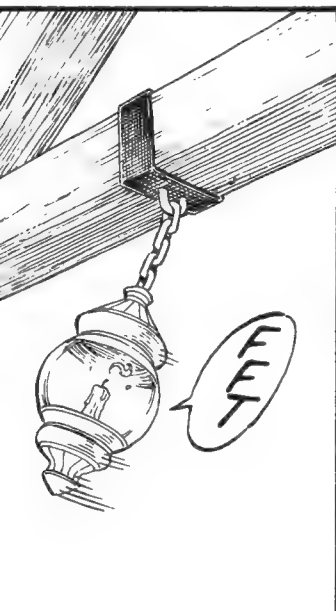
Gathering
together with
their friends
to calm their
unease and keep
their spirits up.

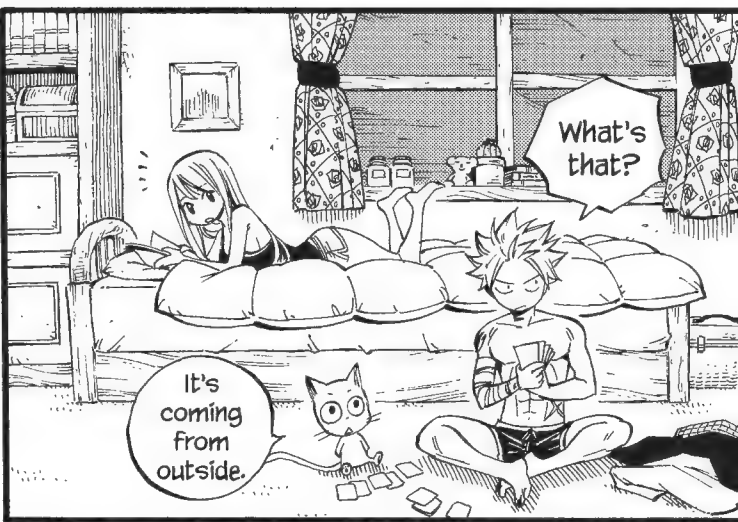


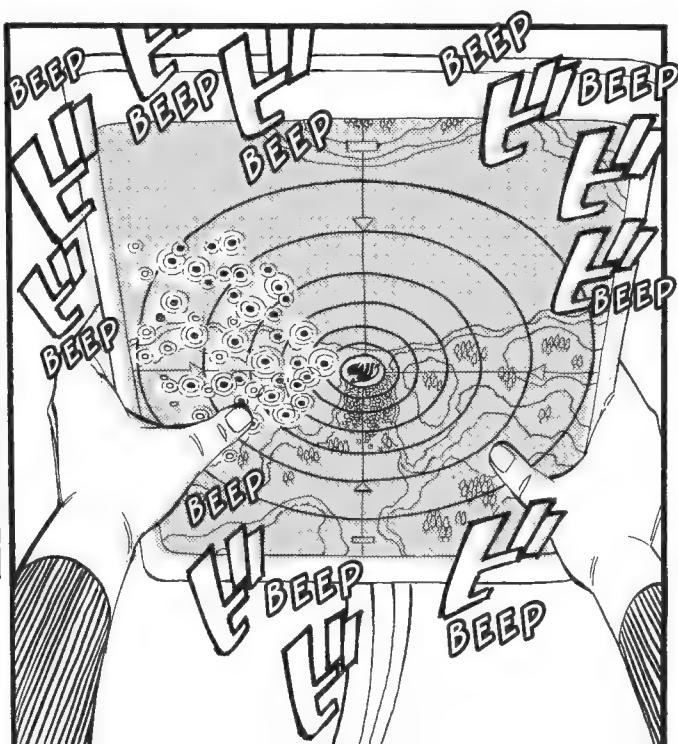
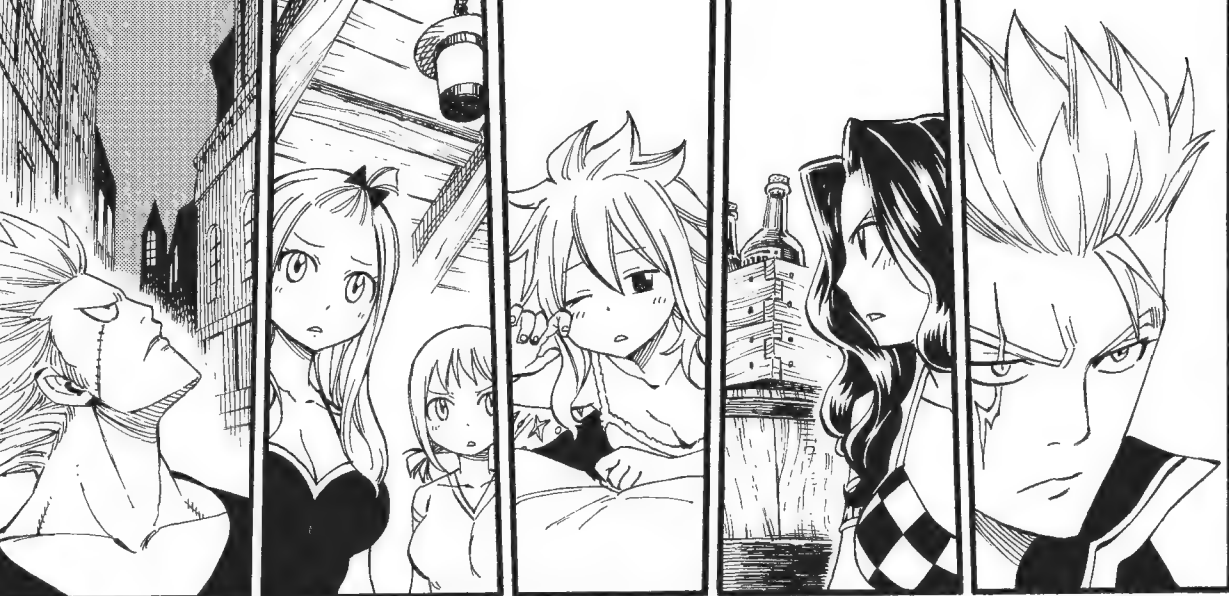
But
that is by no
means a bad
thing.

When a
father shows
fear, it's only
natural for the
children to feel
fear, too.











The guild would have a tough time against even one!

What the...look at 'em all!



And that's only one small part of the Imperial forces!



Nobody said anything about flying ships!



WHOOOOOM!

Enemy attack from above!



About 50 flying heavy cruiser-class ships!



You
ready
to get
pulverized,
Fairy Tail
?!

I'm
gonna
turn
you into
desert
dust!!!!

FAIRY TAIL

フェアリーテイル

Chapter 454: Dragon Flight Force and Osprey Force

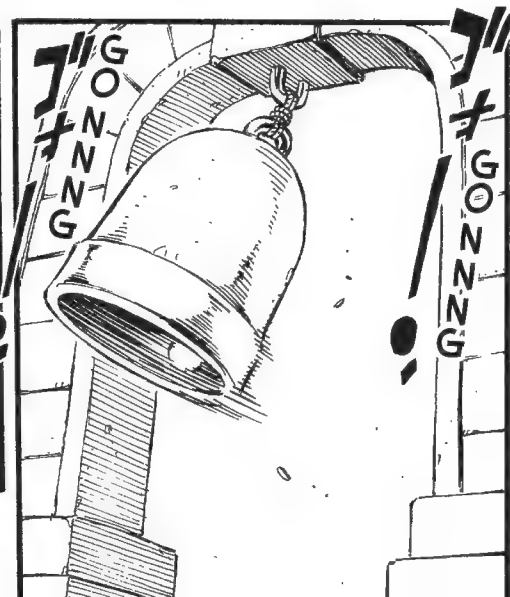




We're not ready yet!

From the sky?!

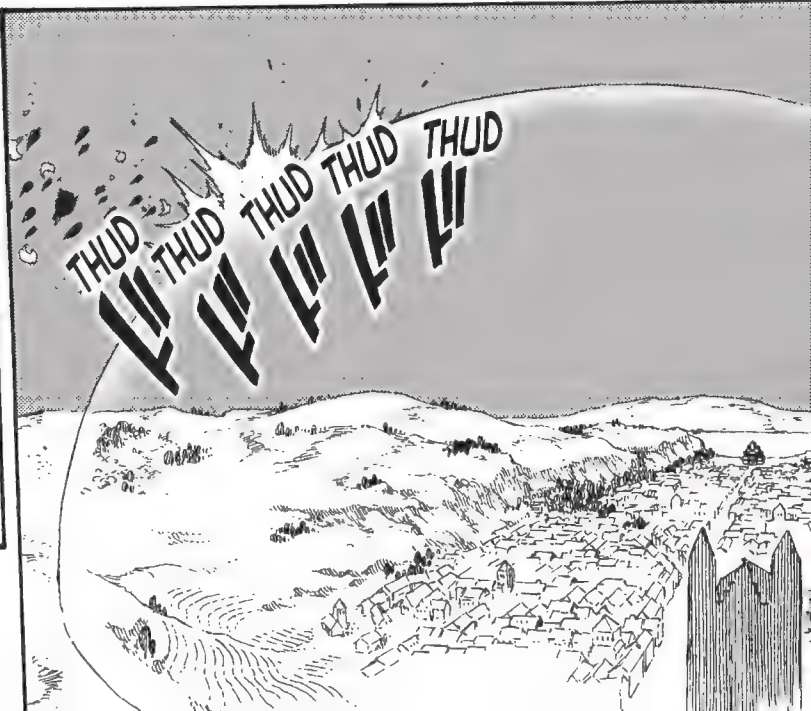
The enemy!



We're under attack!
Approximately 50 heavy cruiser-class warships in the western sky!!



Ring the bell!











Ajeel-sama!
Something's
coming at us
from straight
ahead!!



Ha ha
ha ha! Let's
see how
long they
can hold
out!!!!

Fire!!
Fire!!!

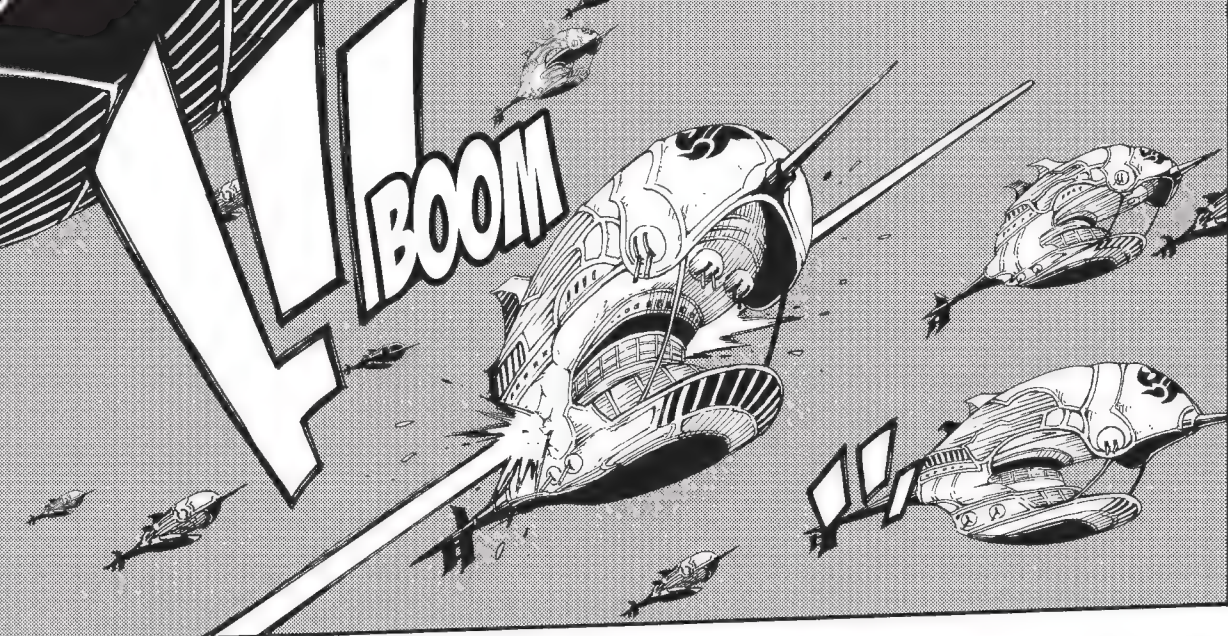


Evade it!

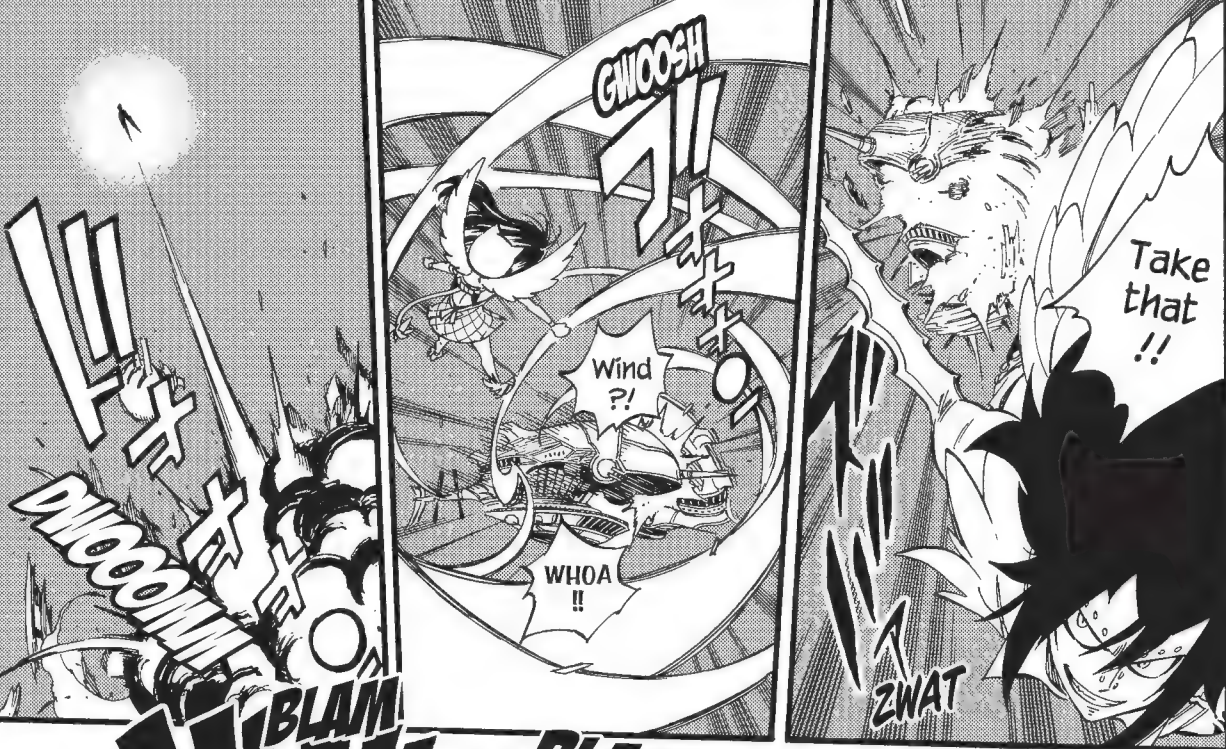
They're
coming in
at incredible
speed!!!

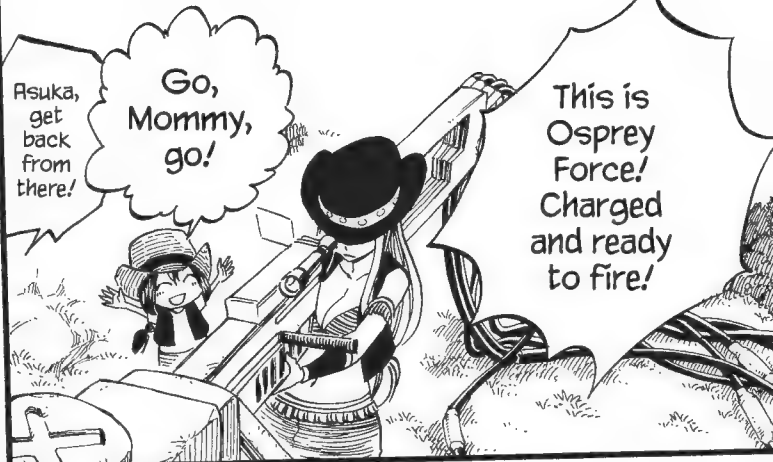


What is
that...?

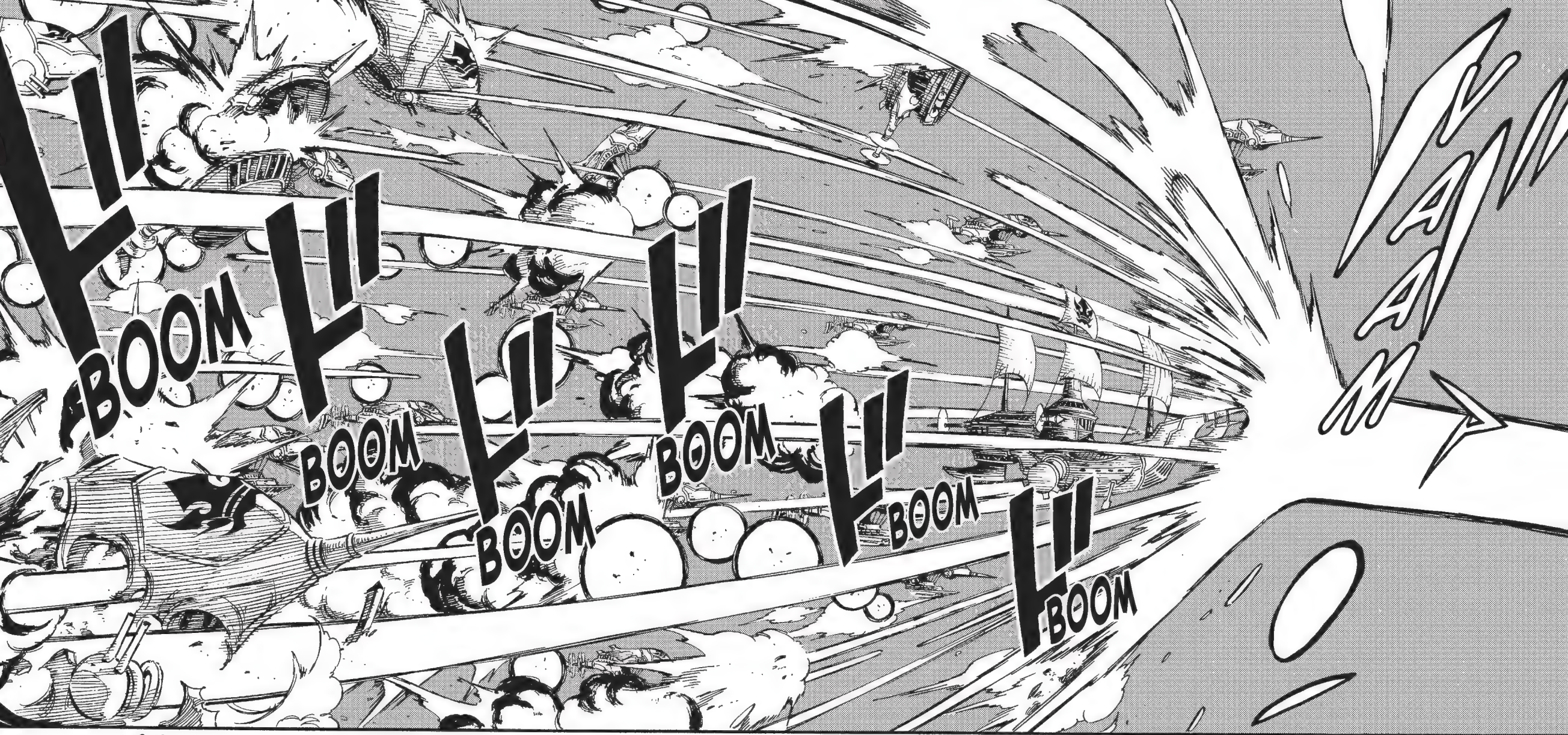




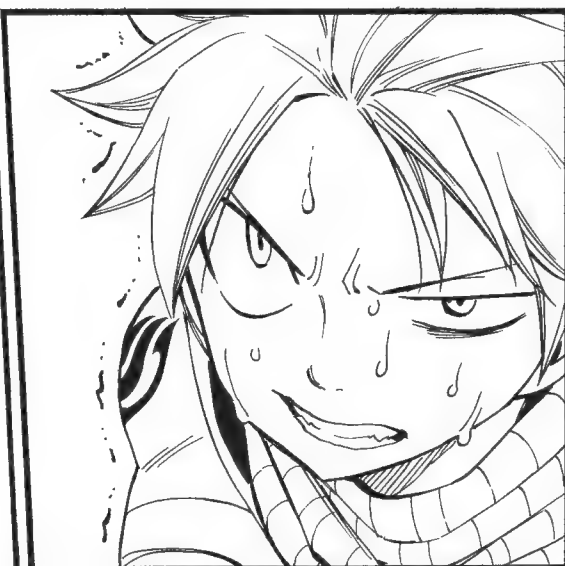


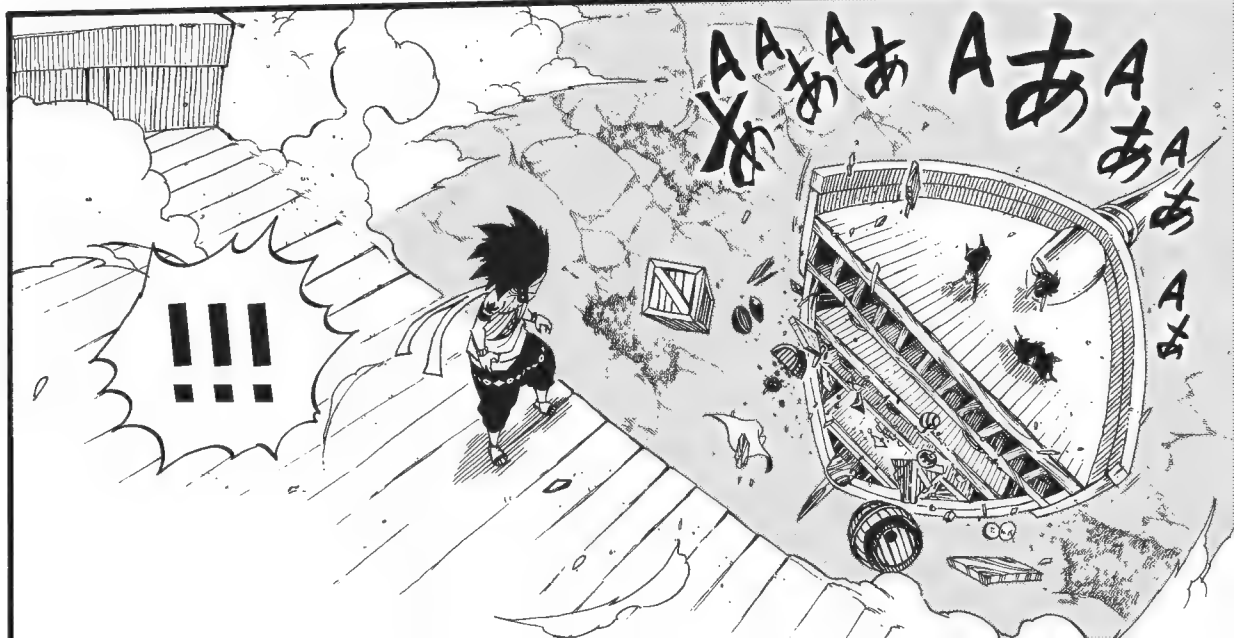
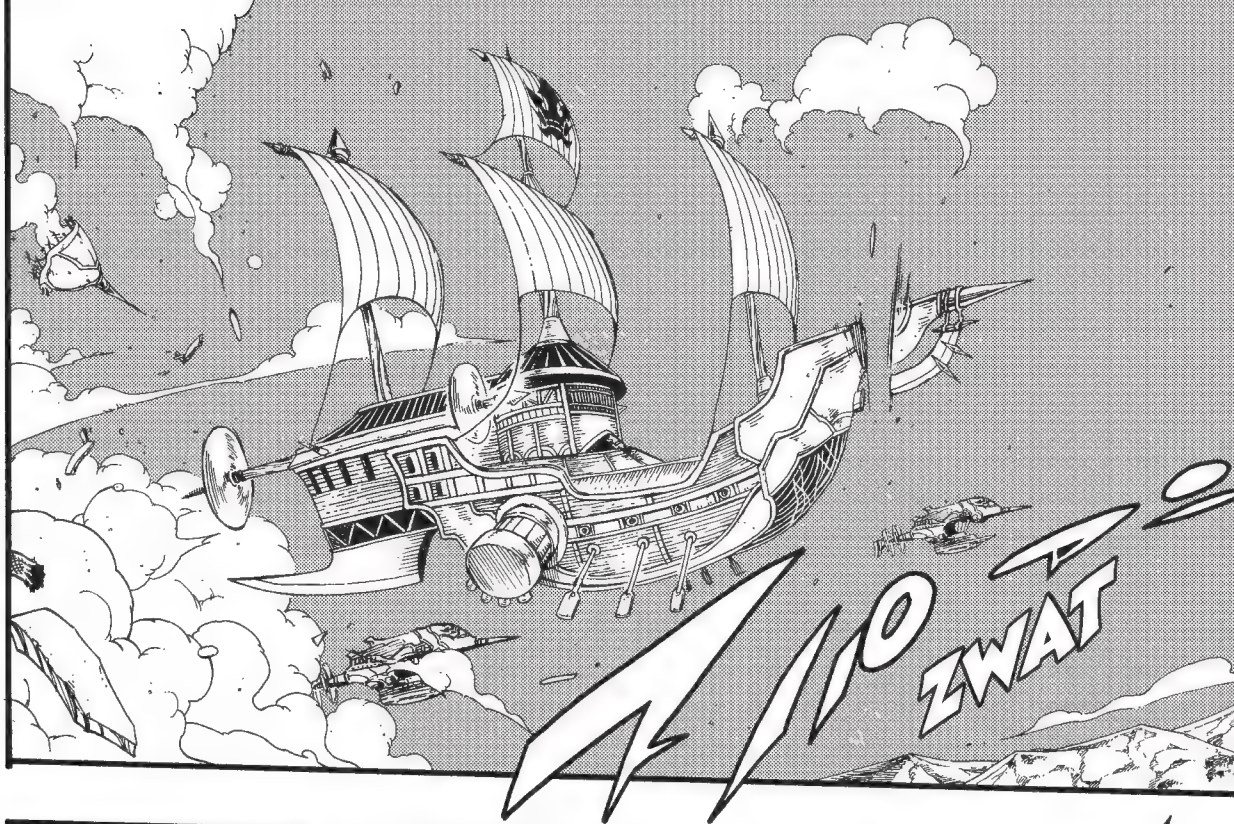












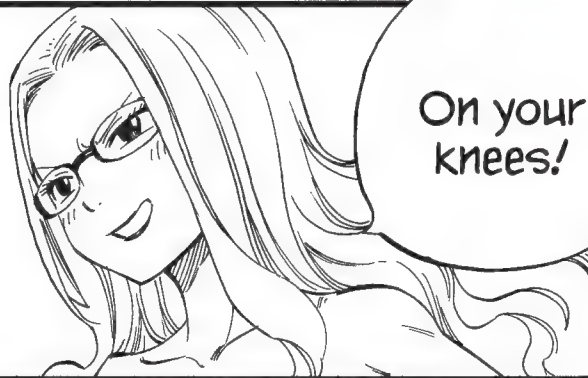




*I am the
one who
will cut you
down!*

ZWIP

Kneel
before
Títania,
the Fairy
Queen!!!



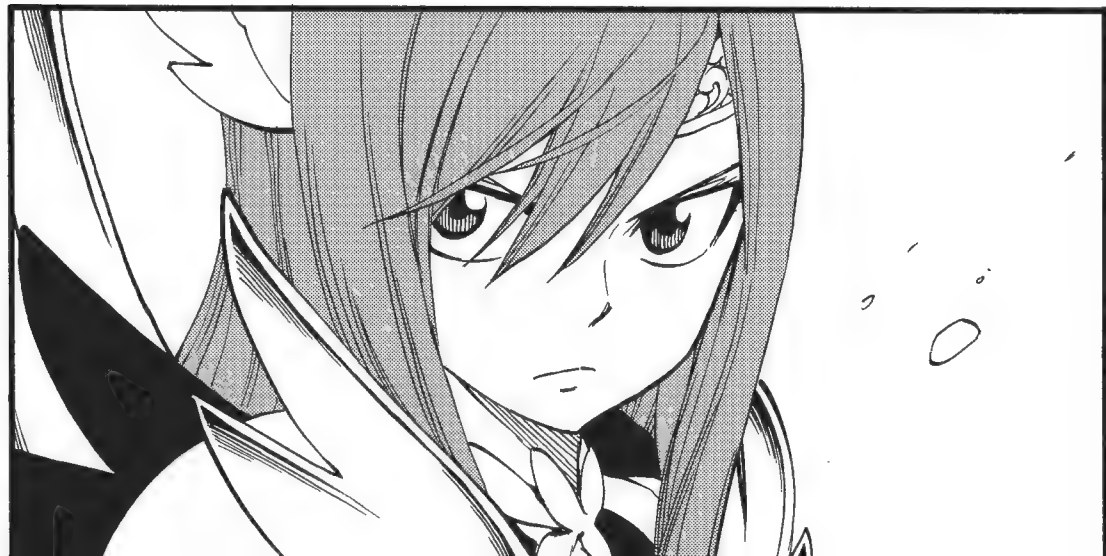
On your
knees!

FAIRY TAIL

フェアリーテイル

Chapter 455: Defending Magnolia







Erza!



She should be able to handle it.

Guess we gotta leave that guy to Erza!

Right!

A number of ships have landed! We should go and meet their attack on the ground!

He's on a ship, after all...



Within the guild...



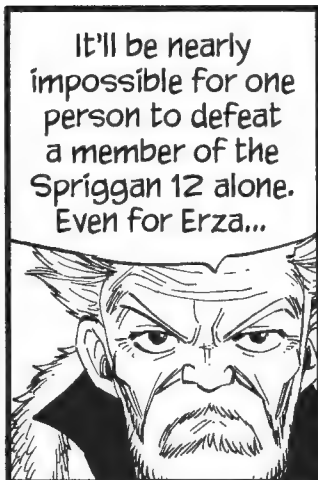
Erza-san protected us *again!*



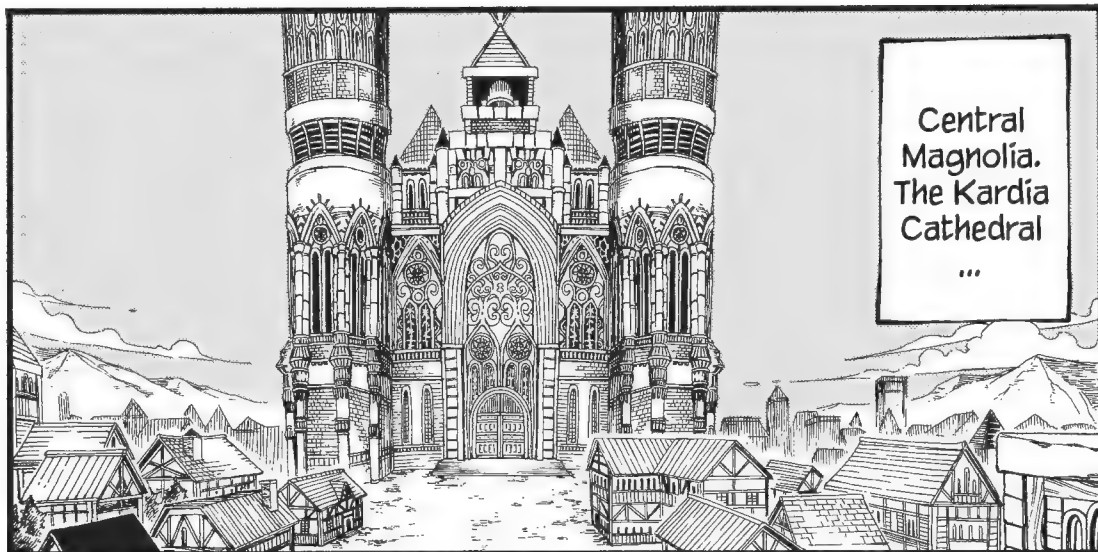
If we can
hold off the
vanguard, it'll be
a huge boost
to morale!



Let's trust
Erza.



It'll be nearly
impossible for one
person to defeat
a member of the
Spriggan 12 alone.
Even for Erza...



Central
Magnolia.
The Kardia
Cathedral
...



But thanks to the
Dragon Flight Force
and the Osprey
Force, the enemy
attack has been
halved!



Those
enemy ships
are hitting
it with too
much magical
firepower!

There is no
such thing as
perfect in this
world!

Isn't your
jutsu-shiki
a perfect
magical
defense?

The
eastern
woods
outside
Magnolia
...

I might be
able to hold
out against
what's left...

But next
time, I'll
hit 'em for
sure!

Jupiter
takes time to
charge.

Mommy,
hurry up and
shoot! The
town's in big
trouble!

SIGH

The
western hill
outside of
Magnolia...



GAH
HA HA
HA!!!

Forward!!!
We make for
Magnolia!!!



Not a
clue!



But
Commander,
how will we
break through
the jutsu-
shiki?



I suppose it is
no obstacle. With
that personage
present, the
jutsu-shiki is
bound to come
down.

GAH
HA
HA
HA!!



...



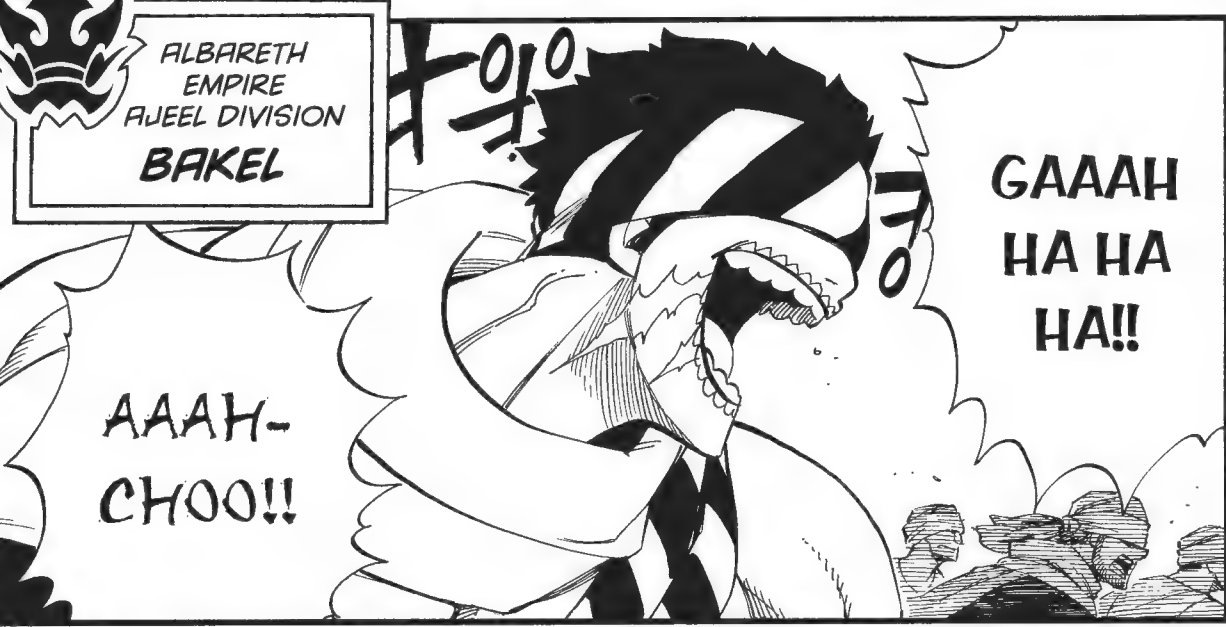
To tell the truth,
I feel this kind
of force is wholly
unnecessary
for an opponent
of their lowly
caliber.

However,
it is the duty
of a soldier to
carry out his
mission.

ALBARETH
EMPIRE
AJEEL DIVISION
KAREEM

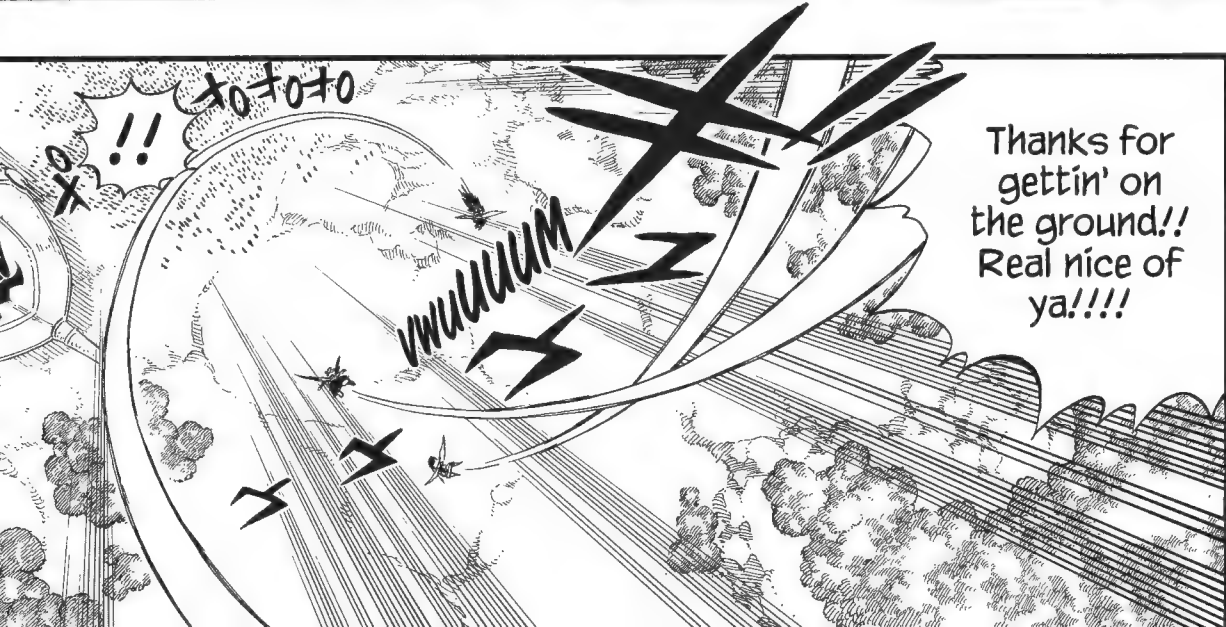


ALBARETH
EMPIRE
AJEEL DIVISION
BAKEL

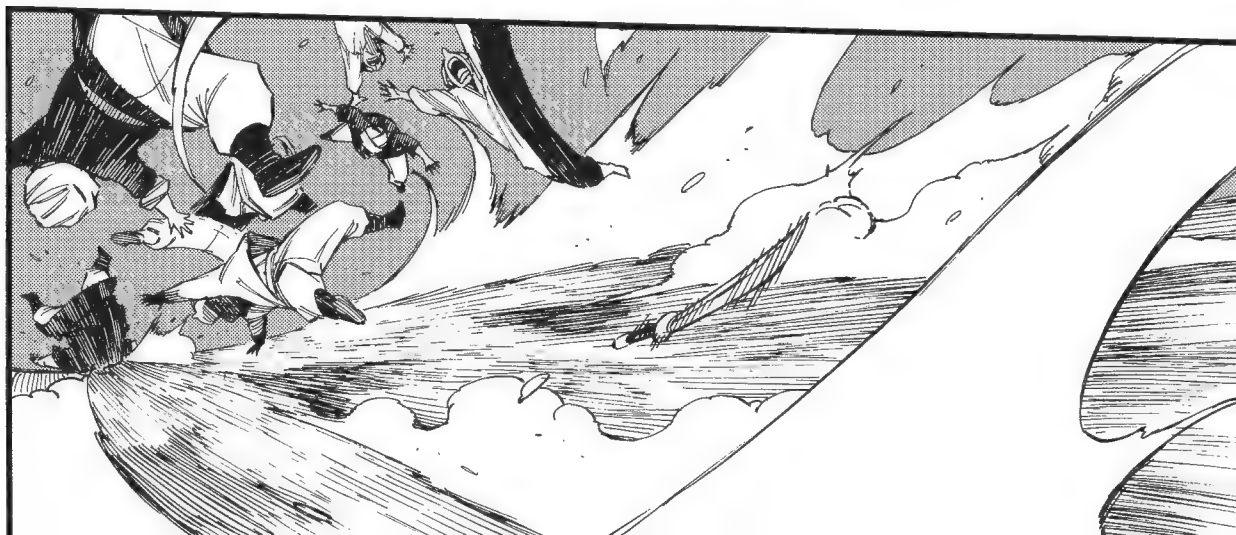


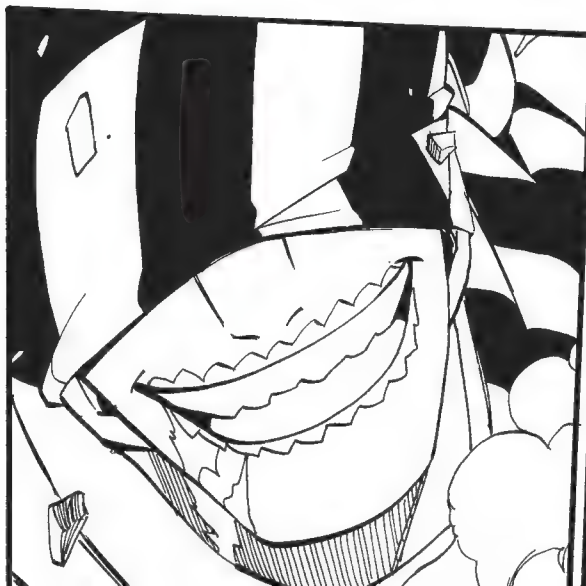
**GAAAH
HA HA
HA!!**

**AAAH-
CHOO!!**



Thanks for
gettin' on
the ground!!
Real nice of
ya!!!!







**BLACK
WING
MOON-
BEAM
!!!!**



Tell me, are
there many
in your guild
who are
stronger
than you?



Don't
make...

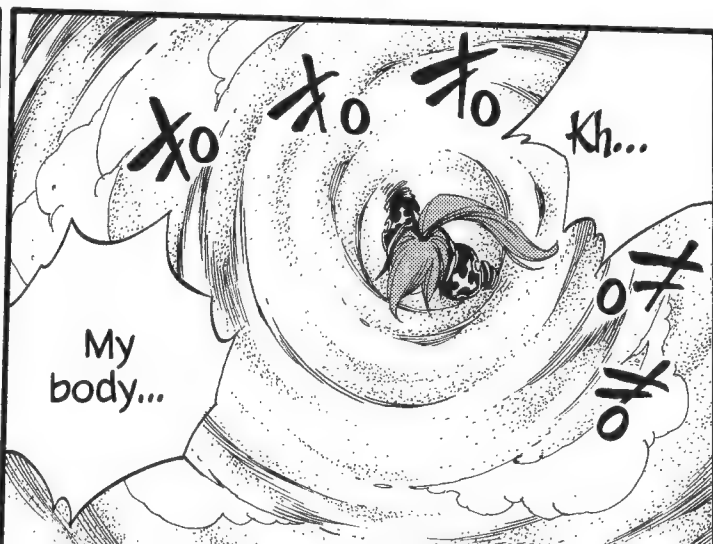


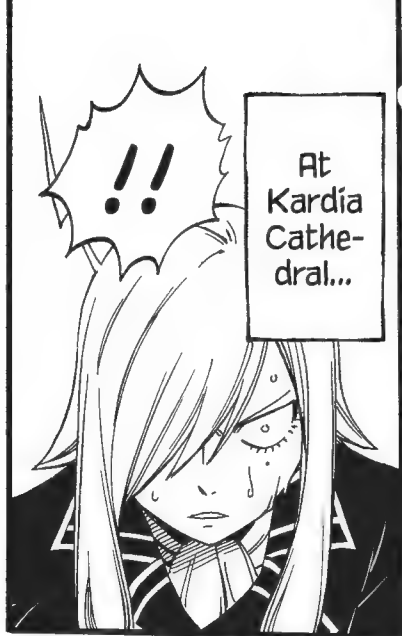
'Cause
you're
a real
letdown
so far!

Ha
ha!!

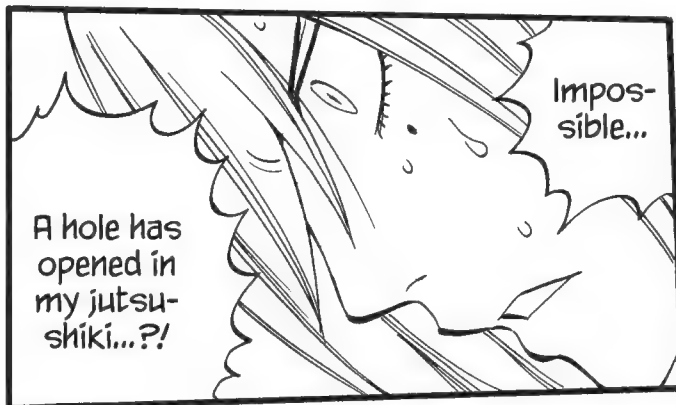


BWAM

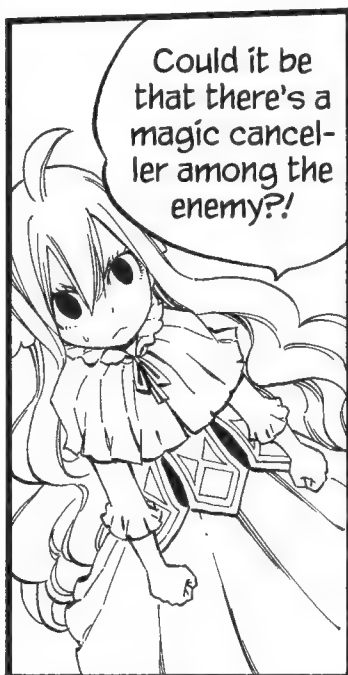




At
Kardia
Cathed-
ral...

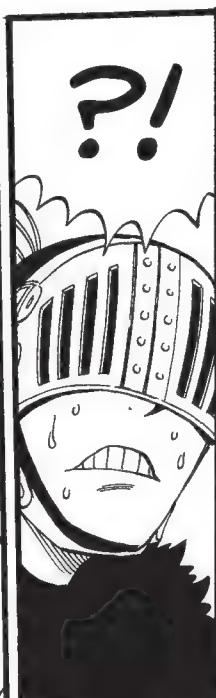


A hole has
opened in
my jutsu-
shiki...?!



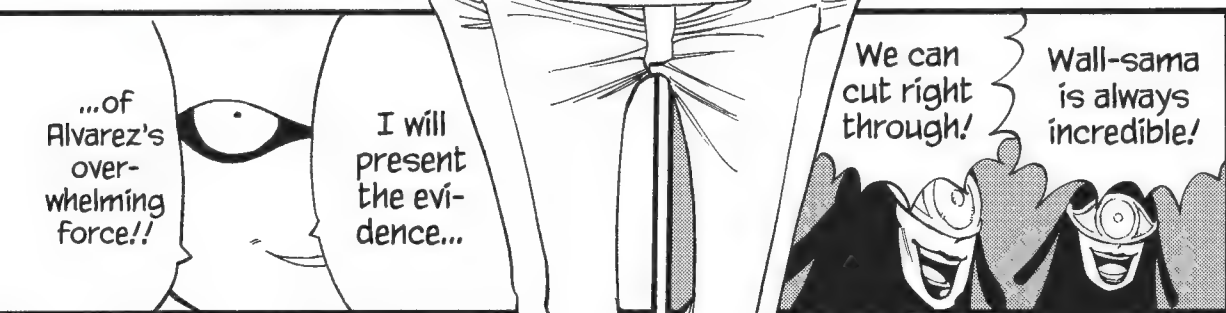
At the
guild...

A fissure
has opened
up in Fried's
jutsu-shiki...





This case
is an easy
win.



...of
Alvarez's
over-
whelming
force!!

I will
present
the evi-
dence...

We can
cut right
through!

Wall-sama
is always
incredible!

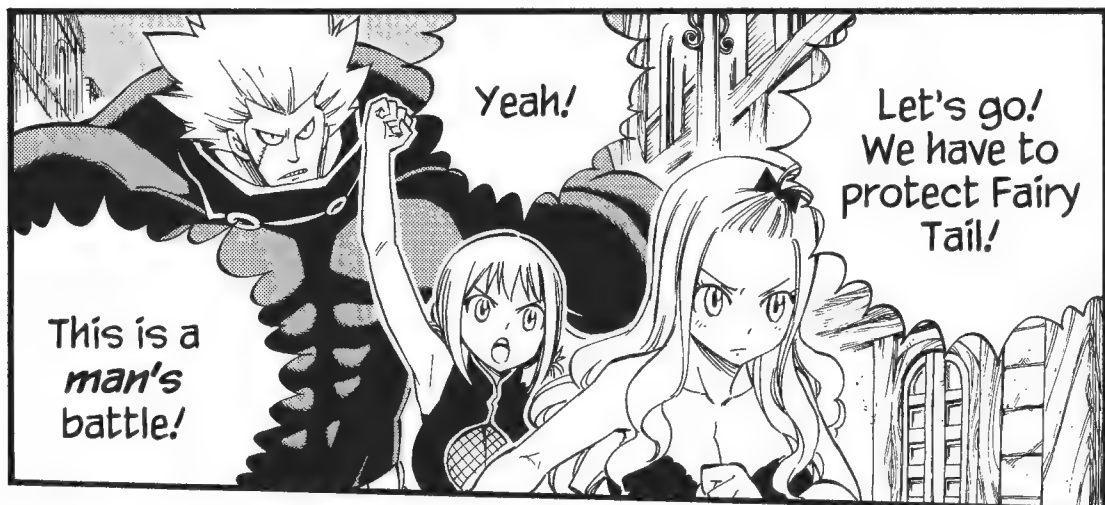
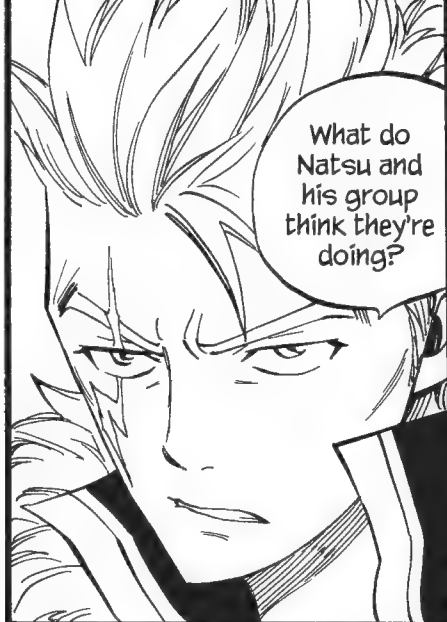


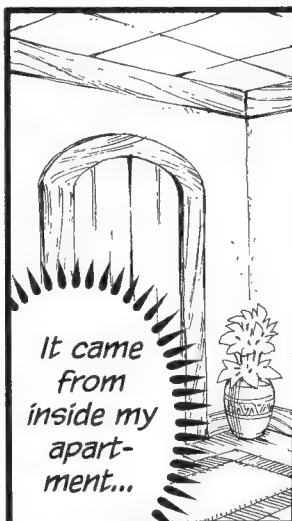
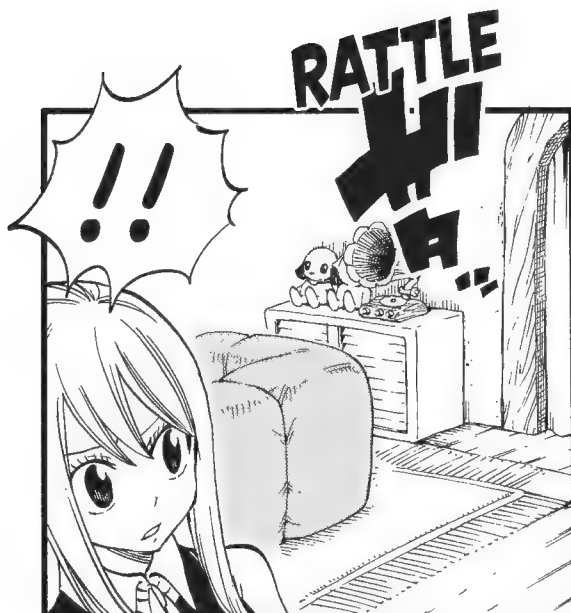
Everyone!
Get ready
to inter-
cept!

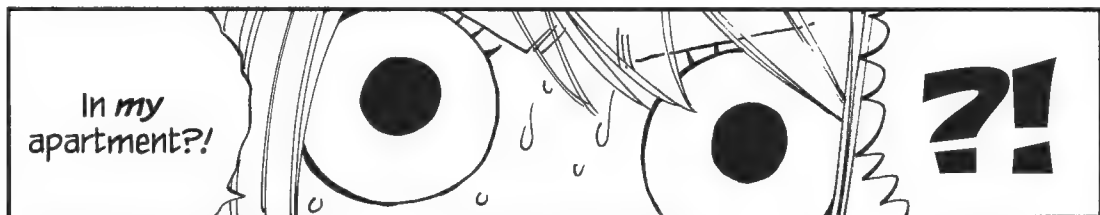
We have
invaders
within the
town!

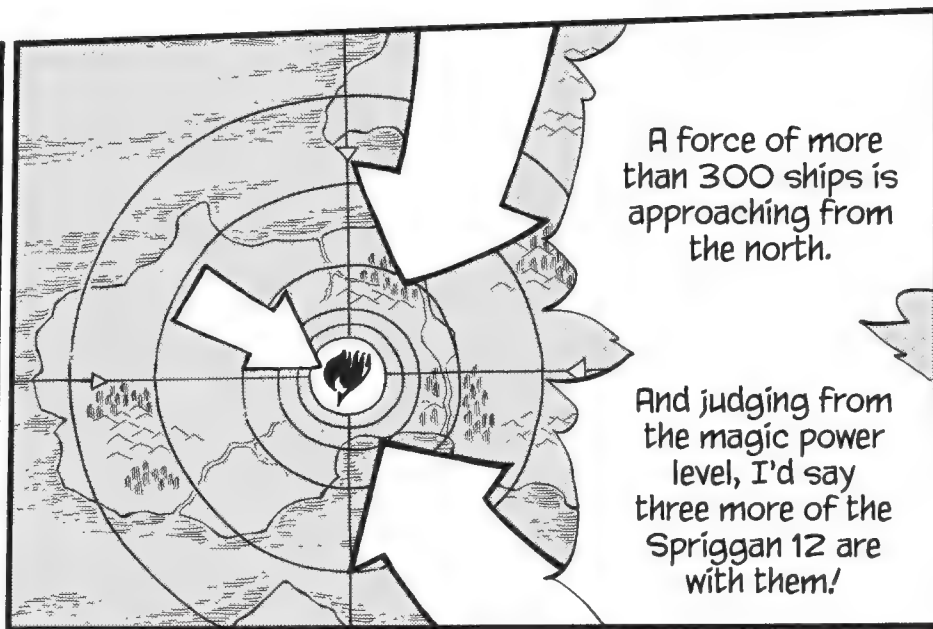
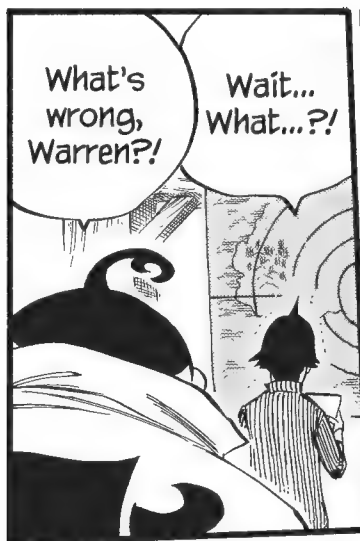


But that
would mean...
another of
the Spriggan
12 is here?!











We're
surrounded...
in all
directions!
There's no
place left to
run...

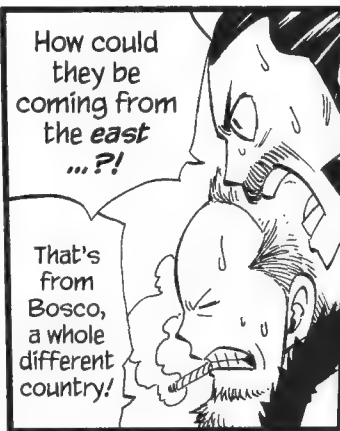
I was wrong...
There's also a
force coming in
from the east
of more than a
million troops...
Three more
Spriggan 12...



This
is the
worst
possible
out-
come!



We never
even con-
sidered an
attack
from
all four
sides...



How could
they be
coming from
the *east*
...?!

That's
from
Bosco,
a whole
different
country!



...but
there's
no way
to win...

*I've
considered
every
potential
strategy...*

TO BE CONTINUED



Afterword

In this volume, the story from Mavis's flashback scene are from the events in "Fairy Tail Zero." Of course, I wrote it so that you don't have to read "Fairy Tail Zero" to understand the story, but if you do, I think you'll get more out of the story.

I had decided on the relationship between Mavis and Zeref quite a long time ago, but it seems that there were an awful lot of fans who were surprised by it, and that makes me very happy! I wanted to draw the kiss scene between Zeref and Mavis in more detail, but with Mavis's body the way it is, I eventually came to the conclusion that doing it in silhouette would be both more beautiful and effective. So that's the way it came out. By the way, no matter what Mavis may look like on the outside, in terms of age, she was very much an adult.

After accidentally creating Fairy Heart, Precht then went on to research magic, and that was when he happened to touch on black magic. And unfortunately, he went on to establish Grimoire Heart through the knowledge he gained in researching Fairy Heart; the connection was "heart."

Now that I've explained quite a few of the mysteries I've foreshadowed in the series, we're now beginning the final battle. And I think this arc will have the biggest twists and turns. What with Natsu, Zeref, Mavis, Fairy Tail's members, Acnologia, and the mixture of all sorts of feelings and emotions, I'm sure it's going to build to something spectacular!!

So I hope you all stay tuned!!

Send to Hiro Mashima, Kodansha Comics
451 Park Ave. South, 7th Floor New York, NY 10016

The Fairy Tail Guild is looking for illustrations! Please send in your art on a post card or at post-card size, and do it in black pen, okay? Those chosen to be published will get a signed mini poster! ♪ Make sure you write your real name and address on the back of your illustration!

FAIRY TAIL GUILD d'ART

Whoa! ▶
Everybody's
turned into
Lummy!
She's really
impactful in
the anime!



Mie Prefecture, An Nagai



▲ Carla in human form—I like this form, too!

▼ So how do you think the Spriggan 12 will measure up?



Hyogo Prefecture, Miyuki Takuchi

Tokyo, Mameko Kakarichō



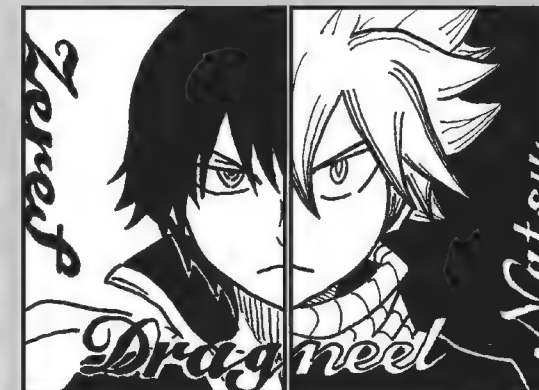
▲ You can be sure you'll get your money's worth of action for these two in this story!

Tochigi Prefecture, Noriben



▲ What a cute illustration! Everyone's having so much fun!

Shizuoka Prefecture, Ahsuo-shi



▲ Now this is a cool image that could symbolize the whole Alvarez Arc!



It's an illustration from Fairy Tail Zero! Thank you!

Miyazaki Prefecture, Nekobuu



Now this is cool! And the straight-profile shot really looks good!

Akita Prefecture, Asuka Suzuki

By sending in letters or postcards, you give us permission to give your name, address, postal code, and any other information you include to the author as is. Please keep that in mind.

Hokkaido, Shirto Ishikawa



▲ Brandish is pretty popular! She really wreaks havoc!

Kanagawa Prefecture, Ten Sora



▲ You know I think Juvia and Wendy seem like they'd team up great, but just haven't yet!

Hiroshima Prefecture, Kotori Nakamoto



▲ Thanks so much for supporting the new characters! These two will get their time to shine someday!

▼ That Happy plush toy (?) hanging from her waist is the cutest thing!



Okayama Prefecture, Ayumi Takeuchi

Osaka, Cana



▲ There are a lot of people who think these two go well together. I think so, too.

REJECTION CORNER



Fukuoka Prefecture, Keisuke Shiraiishi

FROM HIRO NASHIMA



I heard that you can draw on an iPad when you have an iPad Pro and an Apple Pencil. I tried it right away—here's the result.

I still don't know all the ins and outs of the program, but being able to sketch on a whim, anywhere you go, is pretty neat!

It kinda makes me want to try every new digital drawing tool the moment it comes out.

I just know that the digital paint tool of my dreams will come out any day now! It gets me all pumped up!

Fairy Tail

フェアリーテイル

53



HIRO 真島ヒロ MASHIMA

Translation Notes:

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction with our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

Alvarez Empire

Previously, in volume 52, the Alvarez Empire was translated as the “Albareth” Empire, due to the Japanese pronunciation. However, it has since come to light that the correct English spelling is “Alvarez.” We apologize for any confusion.

Page 49, Gaebolg (Precht’s last name)

Gae Bolg is a famous weapon in the Irish myth, *The Ulster Cycle*. Its name has many possible meanings such as: spear of death, spear of mortal pain, notched spear, and belly spear. According to the legend, it was made from the bone of a sea monster and given to the hero Cu Chulainn by his teacher who taught him how to fight. It is a recurring weapon in the *Final Fantasy* video game series.

Page 120, Wall Eehto

Wall Eehto is a play on the Japanese term *warui hito* which translates to “bad guy.” This translation romanized his name rather than create a name out of English such as “Vill Inn” or something similar.



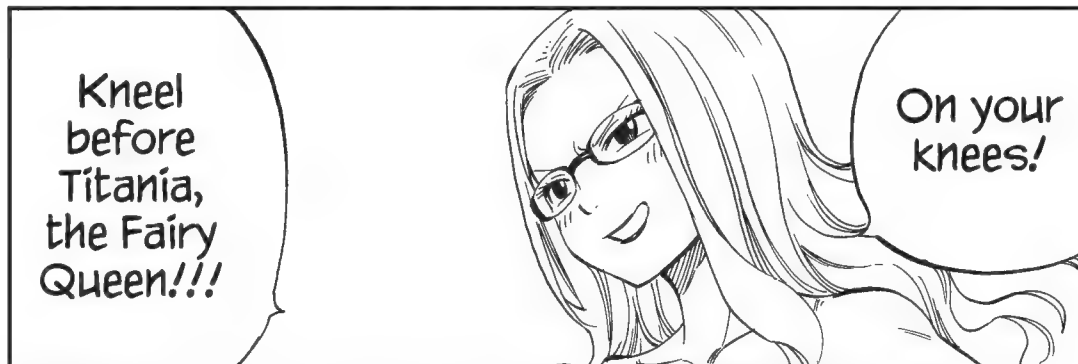
Page 153, Jutsu-shiki

As noted in the translator's notes for Volume 13, Jutsu-shiki is taken from two Japanese words, *jutsu* meaning "technique," and *shiki* meaning "ceremony" or "style." Fried's magic seems to be based on traditional Japanese Buddhist and Shinto practices of hanging wards to protect against evil.



Page 168, Titania

Titania is best known as the Queen of the Fairies in Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, as the estranged wife of Oberon and the one who falls in love with the character Bottom, even when his head is changed to that of a donkey's. Shakespeare got her name from the ancient Roman poet Ovid and his poem, *Metamorphoses*.



Page 175, Bakel

Bakel is written in Japanese as *bakeru*, which is a Japanese word meaning "to change shape." It most commonly refers to supernatural shape-shifters who haunt, deceive, or cause trouble in the human world.



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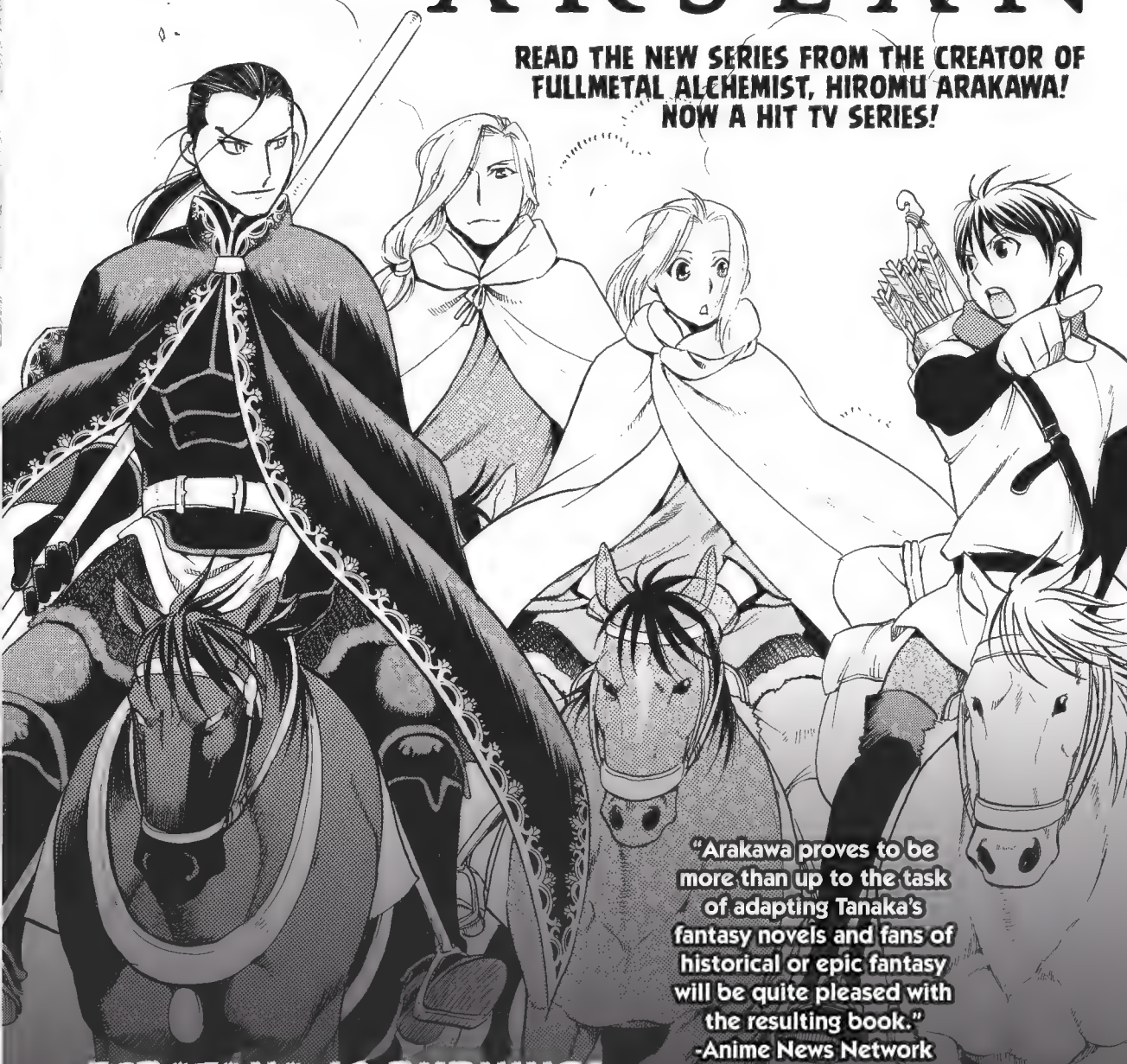
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高
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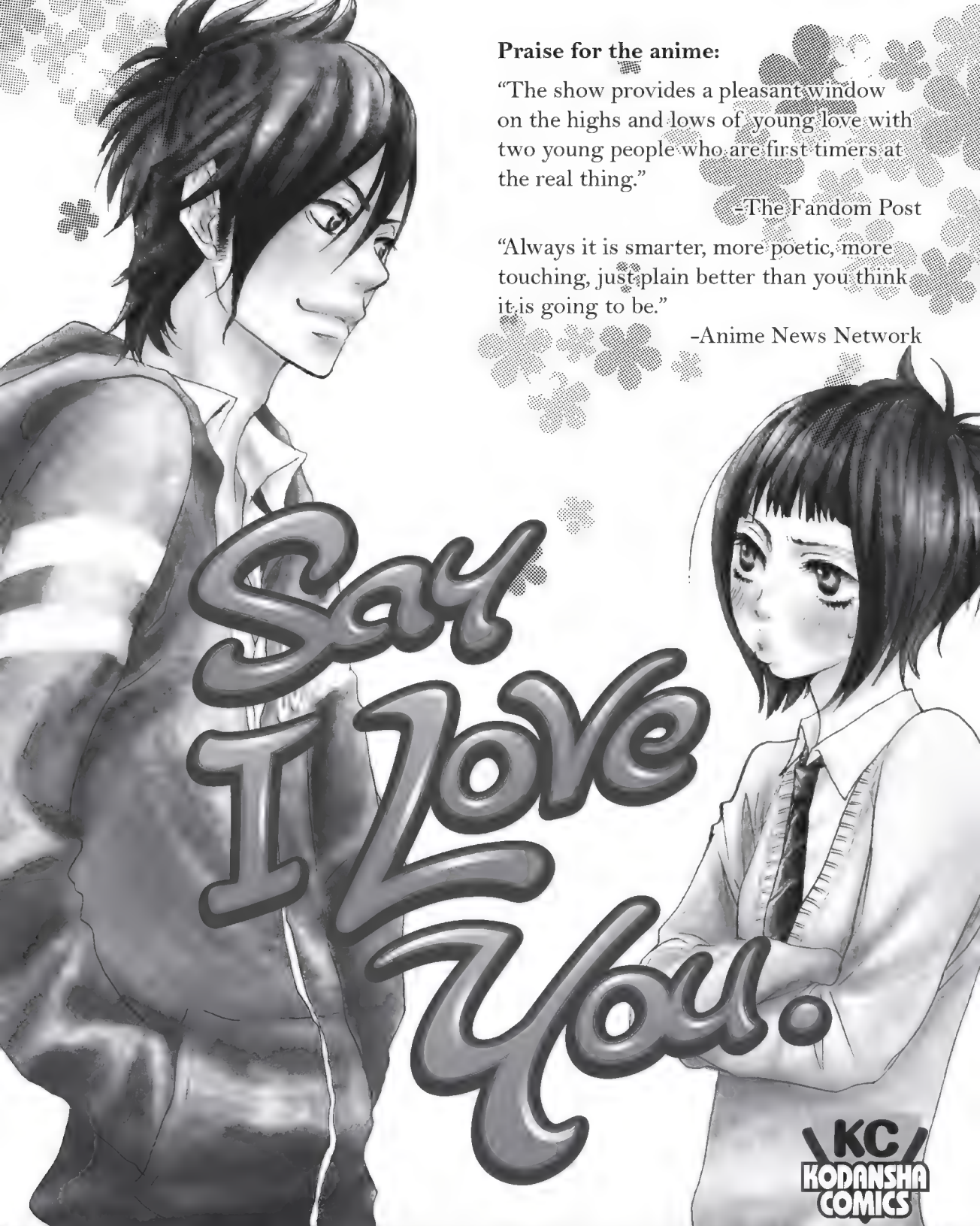
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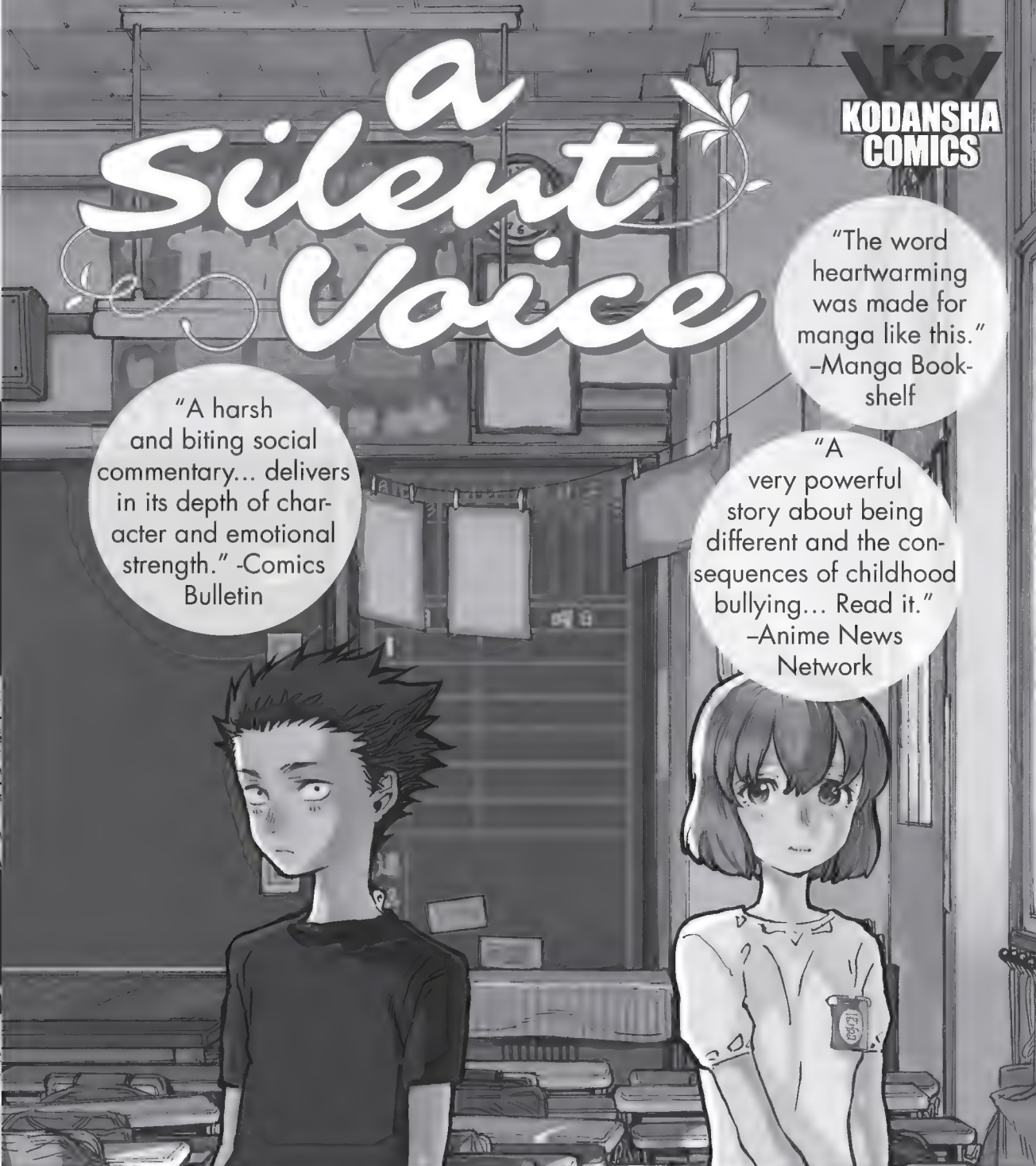
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Shoya is a bully. When Shoko, a girl who can't hear, enters his elementary school class, she becomes their favorite target, and Shoya and his friends goad each other into devising new tortures for her. But the children's cruelty goes too far. Shoko is forced to leave the school, and Shoya ends up shouldering all the blame. Six years later, the two meet again. Can Shoya make up for his past mistakes, or is it too late?

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SHERLOCK BONES

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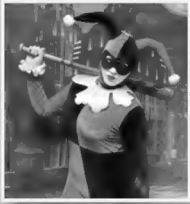


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Fairy Tail 53

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